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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Cooperation Council Meets in Sanaa 25 Sep

Meeting Agenda Previewed

JN2509074089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Sep 89 p 1

[By a JORDAN staff writer]

[Text] The heads of state of the four members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) meet in Sanaa, North Yemen, Monday [25 September] for a three-day summit which is expected to set the ground for increased inter-Arab economic integration through a common market and tackle some of the thorniest political issues facing the Arab World.

The four leaders—His Majesty King Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and North Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the host—will discuss the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and Lebanon as well as the stand-off between Iran and Iraq after eight years of war.

According to reports from Sanaa, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), may join the four leaders at some point during the summit to outline his position on the momentum in the peace process triggered by Mubarak's 10-point proposal over Israel's plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories.

The ACC leaders are scheduled to sign a series of agreements covering economic cooperation with special focus on trade, travel procedures for ACC nationals and interaction in education and sports. The agreements were drawn up by the heads of government of the four countries who met in Baghdad earlier this month.

The Sanaa summit, which coincides with North Yemen's celebration of its 1962 republican revolution, is the second formal gathering of the four leaders, who met first in Baghdad in February to found the regional economic alliance and convened the first formal summit in Alexandria, Egypt, in June.

"We are giving priority to the economic aspect—a single market and an integrated economy," Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan told reporters after an ACC ministerial meeting in Baghdad in April.

"If we do not achieve economic unity we cannot achieve any other unity. All previous Arab unity agreements failed because they did not concentrate on economic unity," he said.

The ACC was founded in Baghdad on Feb. 16. At the other end of the Arab World, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya founded the Arab Maghreb Union the same day.

Arab Gulf states are grouped in an eight-year-old pact, the Gulf Cooperation Council. Syria, Lebanon, South Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, and Djibouti remain outside the three-way line-up of Arab states.

Although the main thrust of the ACC is aimed at increased economic integration, political issues have also figured high in their deliberations. North Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani confirmed Sunday that the summit "will discuss several issues of interest to the Arab World as well as subjects of (internal ACC) cooperation" in addition to signing 16 accords in different areas as part of the four members' drive for economic unity.

The summit follows two major developments in the Arab World: 'Arafat has accepted an Egyptian proposal for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue to pave the way for wider peace negotiations, and a ceasefire has been called and appeared to be holding in Lebanon after six months of savage battles pitting Syrian troops and their allies against rightist forces led by army commander Michel 'Awn.

On the Arab-Israeli front, Mubarak, with the added weight that 'Arafat has given him with his conditional acceptance of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, is expected to seek endorsement of his initiatives to break the deadlock in peace efforts from the other three leaders. All the four countries have said that they support all PLO moves aimed at liberating the occupied territories and achieving the national goals of the Palestinian people.

On the Lebanese front, the four ACC leaders have reaffirmed their endorsement of the revived efforts of a three-member Arab League committee charged with finding an end to the country's 14-year-old civil strife.

Jordanian King Arrives

JN2509124689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Sanaa, 25 Sep (INA)—His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan arrived in Sanaa at 1430 today to attend the Arab Cooperation Council third summit.

His majesty was received by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemeni Arab Republic, and senior Yemeni officials.

Mubarak, Saddam Husayn Arrive

JN2509105889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in Sanaa at 1100 today at the head of a large delegation to participate in the meeting of the Higher Committee of the Arab Cooperation Council leaders that will be held in Sanaa today.

Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and senior state and military officials were present at Sanaa airport to welcome him.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the fraternal Republic of Iraq, also arrived in Sanaa at 1200 today at the head of a large delegation. [passage ommited]

Transport, Trade Ministers Arrive

JN2409195489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Sanaa, 24 Sep (INA)—A number of the members of the Iraqi delegation that will participate in the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council Higher Committee arrived here this evening.

Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, and a number of officials arrived in Sanaa. They were received by Deputy Prime Minister Dr Hasan Makki; the minister of economy, supply, and trade; the minister of information and culture; the minister of public works and transportation; a number of officials; and the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

Closed Meeting Held 25 Sep

JN2509182789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1736 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] brothers Colonel President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress; King Husayn Ibn-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; President Saddam Husayn of the Iraqi Republic; and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt held a closed session at 1545 today. They discussed subjects that had been take up by the ACC Supreme Council and other issues of interest to the ACC member states and our Arab nation.

Saddam Husayn Addresses Summit

JN2509195389 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1603 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Speech by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at the opening session of the third Arab Cooperation Council summit in Sanaa—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; dear brother heads of the Arab Cooperation Council's [ACC] states, brothers present in the audience; with great joy and happiness we meet in ancient Arab Sanaa to participate with our fraternal Arab people in Arab Yemen and its leadership, headed by our dear brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the 26 September Revolution in 1962 which moved Yemen into a new stage. This stage was that of freedom, progress, renaissance, and effective participation in contemporary Arab life. We breathe the air of the history and purity of the Arab heritage when we meet here in Yemen, which is the source of Arabism and the starting point of its ancient civilizations. [passage omitted]

With the experience of our Arab Cooperation Council, our nation throughout the Arab territory will feel interaction and solidarity. They will establish strength capable of warding off the greatest dangers and thwarting the conspiracies of the conspirators.

Dear brothers, we do not wish to build a ship with which we can cross the present stage in response to any short-term predictions. We aspire to build the boat of the future to carry the hopes of the nation and the aspirations of the nationalists and pan-Arabists, not only in our four countries, but throughout the Arab nation, so that we would all be in a better position and the whole nation will be elevated to glory. Then and only with the development of our course will it be the best course.

We have to take all our foreign relations into account. However, we should not start with them. We should deal with our internal affairs, some of which are the ACC issues. We should not measure all our steps against our foreign relations only. They should not be the bases of our self-image and potentials. We should start with ourselves and look through it—potentials and chances—to the external relations.

We should set our foreign accounts and dealings on the bases of the hopes and aspirations of our people and nation, what we believe in, and what we believe is the best for our people—not concerning the present only, but also the future—as long as our decisions are being made in Cairo, Sanaa, Amman, and Baghdad. We should not fear the pressure of others, wherever they may be, because the course we choose is a true expression of what the sons of the nation want, including our people in the four countries.

The steps of group action and work are greater in effect and capacity than the equivalent individual steps of any of our countries. What all of us want and are working toward is not a yield of the collective capacities, resources, and opportunities in our country. It is the result of deep interaction within the framework of the pan-Arab belief and view of all this to realize a better quality of potentials, capacities, and open opportunities before our countries, each on its own, or those opportunities that will open up before us as a result of our joint effort. All this cannot be realized only by the effect and availability of the financial present, but through the historic and moral effect of ambitions for the future. Our work and action are not an attempt for the weak to join hands, fearing the winds of change and development, as the enemies portrayed it. It is the work and course of the strong down a road filled with dignity, pride, and success, filled with a hope which includes all the Arab territories and people. Our joint action is not the reliance of one of us on another, but a support of each of us for

the other to build our new road leading to a better future for our countries and people. Better opportunities will open up before us to deal with life. The area planted with hope and ability will grow taller. It is our new way for a happier and brighter state.

Dear brothers, there are many basic issues in the life of our nation which require our serious and constant attention stemming from our historic responsibilities and national commitment.

The Palestine question still occupies the forefront of our pan-Arab interests. We still demand that we renew and affirm our commitment to back the heroic Palestinian Arab people's intifadah [uprising] and the steps taken by the Palestinian leadership to implement the resolutions made by the representatives of the Palestinian Arab people.

The Palestine question, which has achieved great political gains on the international level, is still being exposed to many plots which aim to bide time, abort the intifadah, and perpetuate the occupation. We are dutybound within the framework of our council and the broader pan-Arab framework to confront these plots with clear political vision and steadfastness in affirming the complete political rights as drawn up by the legitimate and struggling Palestinian institutions.

We are also dutybound to struggle in every way to oppose the policies of killing, oppression, terrorism, and deportation which are being practiced by the Zionist occupation forces against the sons of our Palestinian Arab people. We are also required to provide the means for their steadfastness to continue their brave intifadah.

Dear brothers, the ACC was deeply preoccupied with the situation in Lebanon. Our opinion has always been that this state of affairs is a great threat to Arab national security, including the security of our states in the ACC. The occupying Syrian regime's behavior toward Lebanon also constitutes a grave threat against the bases of relations which should exist among and be respected by the sons of the Arab nation and its countries.

Our countries took an active part in the proceedings of the Casablanca extraordinary Arab summit conference during its discussions on Lebanon. We backed the efforts made by our brothers in the tripartite committee in spite of the fact that we believed and still believe that the root of the ordeal and its evil entries into Lebanon lies in the Syrian regime's occupation of it and the application of a suspect policy inside Lebanese society, which depends on stirring the feuds of division and quarrel to the extent of fighting.

The sound key to the solution of the Lebanese crisis lies in the unconditional withdrawal of the Syrian regime's troops and the driving away or expelling of all foreign troops from it—I mean the Israeli and Iranian troops specifically.

The scenario in Lebanon is still grave. The threats and dangers resulting from these situations still exist and they have even increased recently. Today, while the tripartite committee attempts to continue its mission, we hope it will succeed in its work in order to rescue Lebanon from its ordeal.

In our opinion, the solution to the Lebanese crisis must be based on two main pillars, neither of which should be ignored or neglected. The first is the national reconciliation among the Lebanese on the basis of justice, fairness, and the single national affiliation. The second is the full and strict respect of Lebanon's sovereignty and national and pan-Arab choices as an independent country and member of the Arab League. This demands the refusal to deal with any type of custodianship on it or with those who seek privileges in it.

This also requires the need to affirm the principle of the withdrawal of the forces occupying Lebanon—whether they were the troops of the Syrian regime or the Israeli or Iranian troops—so that a real opportunity can exist in Lebanon to enable its sons to achieve the national reconciliation and rebuild the national institutions and bring things back to normal.

Brothers, in spite of the fact that over 1 year has elapsed on the cease-fire between ourselves and Iran, the Iranian regime has not yet settled seriously on peace after the defeat of its military and political program, which is based on expansion by the use of force and armed aggression, and on custodianship on others and intervention in their domestic affairs.

Our firm belief in a comprehensive and permanent peace is confirmed in every step we made before and after the cease-fire. This belief is based on a firm, principled stand and a strong ability to face all obstacles. It also proceeds from a high feeling of national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian responsibility.

Tehran rulers continued to maneuver and delay adherence to the 8 August 1988 agreement, according to which there was a cease-fire. They also maneuver within the serious and sincere work to implement Resolution 598 as a comprehensive peace step. The Iranian side should clearly understand that its maneuvers, selective policies, propagandist tendency, and empty threats will not lead to any positive result. It must learn lessons from its stubbornness and insistence on continuing the war and rejecting peace in the past, and the results it reaped from that policy. In its current stand, it did not achieve any different results from those it achieved when it used to insist on war.

If certain Iranian officials resort at times to using threats of resuming the war out of their belief that through this method, they can influence the negotiations, I am telling them that the battle in which they wanted to test their aggressive policy has already taken place, and it lasted for 8 years. Its results are very well known and victory was achieved by the Arabs in that battle. This was not a

temporary or accidental case. It is based on a continuous and growing capability, God willing.

Arab solidarity and clear Arab vision will remain two main factors that will remove illusions from the minds of the Tehran rulers and push them into accepting peace and respecting their Arab neighbors.

The international community is also urged to pressure the Iranian regime to head toward the real, direct negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations in order to implement Resolution 598 as a comprehensive peace step. The Iranian regime must abandon its selective and partial method and its maneuvers.

Resorting to extortion and using the prisoners of war as hostages in order to achieve illegitimate political goals is an inhuman and unethical stand which contradicts Item No 3 of Resolution 598 and Article No 118 of the third Geneva Convention of 1949, which calls for releasing the prisoners of war once military acts cease—and this was achieved over 1 year ago.

Iraq asserts its desire for and interest in achieving a permanent and comprehensive peace with Iran based on respecting sovereignty, refraining from intervention in internal affairs, and respecting the free choice of each people in their social and political system without any foreign custodianship. These bases will provide the two countries and the Arabian Gulf area with security and opportunities for peace and progress. They will also contribute positively to fostering peace in the world.

Finally, I wish to extend my many thanks to my brother, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, for the warm, brotherly welcome and Arab hospitality accorded us since we set foot on Yemeni soil. I wish our brotherly people in the Yemen Arab Republic further progress, prosperity, and glory.

According to the ACC's laws and charter, I, on your behalf, call on brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to assume the chairmanship of this meeting. We are very hopeful that the ACC will continue to march with firm steps on the way which we planned together for the benefit of our countries and the whole of the Arab nation.

Peace be upon you.

YAR President Addresses Summit

JN2509184089 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1636 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Speech by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, at the opening session of the third Arab Cooperation Council summit in Sanaa—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God be praised. We seek God's help. Prayer and peace be upon His loyal messenger. Dear brother His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talah, dear brother President Saddam Husayn, dear President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, brother members of the Ministerial Council, brother secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], and esteemed audience, with complete happiness and joy I welcome you in your homeland, Yemen, the source of civilization, Arabism, and glory. Please allow me to express to you our people's pride in your stay here with them, in the convening of the meeting of the ACC Supreme Council in the city of Sanaa, and in your participation in our people's joys on the 27th anniversary of the immortal 26 September revolution.

Our people's warm reception of you expresses the spirit of brotherhood, cordiality, and pan-Arab feelings toward you, and happiness over the convening of this meeting in the historic city of Sanaa. The masses of the ACC and the sons of our Arab nation are looking forward to this historic and important meeting and to the possible results and resolutions that will serve every Arab citizen in the ACC countries and the Arab homeland. We are fully confident that the results of our meeting will add to the pan-Arab gains, which have been achieved since the ACC was established in the capital of victory, peace, and steadfastness, Baghdad, and which will promote the positive results of the Alexandria meeting in Egypt.

This meeting comes under very delicate and important circumstances on the pan-Arab, Islamic, and international levels. This prompts our council to play an effective role on all levels in addition to carrying out its economic and social duties. As we affirm that the ACC is a national and pan-Arab acheievment for the four countries, it is also a gain for the masses of our Arab nation, because it is an advanced unionist step toward a comprehensive Arab unity that will epitomize the Arab nation's aspirations to further progress, integration, and economic and social progress.

What has been achieved so far is great and important, and the expected achievements are still greater. We have great duties and wide horizons for progress and action. With God's help and the blessing of the masses, we are determined to continue the march forward in practical and realistic steps, stressing that out of the understanding and confidence among us, we will enable this pan-Arab achievement to epitomize the aspirations and ambitions of the masses in Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic. This is in order to realize our Arab nation's will to achieve integration and unity, deriving help from Almighty God, who granted us success in achieving good, power, and unity and from the blessings and support of the genuine Arab masses to establish our council which interacts with all its steps and resolutions. Through its honest unionist efforts, the Arab nation is regaining its glories and creating a history in which our nation takes pride.

The ACC and other Arab groupings under the auspices of the Arab League are writing the history of a new phase of joint Arab action and are laying the strong, objective, and realistic groundwork for a comprehensive Arab union. What we are trying to do is to achieve a positive

integration among the existing Arab groups in order to reach the noble pan-Arab strategic goal in comprehensive Arab unity.

Dear brothers, our adherence to the causes of our Arab nation is principled and firm. At the head of these causes is the Palestinian cause. We affirm that we will continue to support the Palestinian right, the Palestinian revolution, and the Palestinian Arab people's struggle to regain their rights and establish their own independent state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

While we bless and support the sweeping Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories, we appeal to the international community, especially the big powers, to shoulder their humanitarian responsibilities, put an end to the bloody and brutal massacres and the terrorist actions by the unjust Zionist entity against the unarmed Palestinian Arab people, and support efforts to convene an international peace conference.

At the same time, we are following with deep interest and concern all developments in the Lebanese arena, and we reiterate our support for fraternal Lebanon to end its ordeal. While we view this as a duty of the Arab nation and the Arab countries, our brothers in Lebanon have a greater responsibility for reaching an understanding among themselves and for helping themselves to end their ordeal. In the Arab homeland, we should help them realize any agreement they reach to solve their problem and preserve Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and independence.

Regarding the situation in the Arabian Gulf, we reiterate our call and hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will respond to the true desire, which was expressed by fraternal Iraq to bring about a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region—a peace which is also the desire of every Arab and Muslim—in order to end bloodshed and to direct the abilities and potential of the two peoples toward constructive progress.

Dear brothers, please allow me, before I conclude my speech, to express my deep thanks to and appreciation for you and the members of the Ministerial Council and the ACC General Secretariat for all the efforts exerted to prepare for our meeting, which will make the desired resolutions. Welcome to you again in your first homeland and among your kinfolk and tribe. With God's blessings, we will start, and we will derive help from Him. Peace be upon you.

Iraq's Ramadan Speaks

JN2509203889 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1647 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Speech by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, at the opening session of the third Arab Cooperation Council summit in Sanaa—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr Chairman of the Supreme Council, honorable leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]: With great pleasure and pride I am honored to place between your hands this report on the second meeting of the first session of the Ministerial Council of the ACC member states, which was held in Baghdad from 16-17 September this year, and the resulting recommendations and resolutions which we hope you will approve.

Mr Chairman, directly following the Alexandria summit and in implementation of the directives of the ACC leaders, Baghdad, Cairo, Amman, and Sanaa witnessed a series of meetings among the ACC ministers in various specializations and spheres and among the heads of professional and popular organizations and unions with the aim of getting firsthand knowledge of the systems and work methods of departments and institutions of the ministries of the ACC states so that their resolutions and recommendations could be made in the field and be identical and capable of implementation. We met with all the ministers of the ACC member states, who held meetings in Baghdad. A profound discussion was held with them in order to find common channels that bolster the ACC's march. The results of the meetings were positive and fruitful. They also resulted in proposals and resolutions which enriched the agenda and created a common understanding among the competent ministers.

At the conclusion of these meetings, we in Baghdad began to prepare the topics of the agenda, which was comprehensive although it concentrated mainly on the economic aspect. It contained agreements in the areas of information, culture, education, sports and youth, labor and social affairs, housing and reconstruction, and transportation and communications. We sent this agenda early to the brother heads of governments of Egypt, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic so that it could be enriched with their notes by studying it with officials and technicians, in addition to the working papers presented by the brothers in this or that regard. During the second session of the Ministerial Council in Baghdad, the agenda was deeply discussed with objectivity and interaction and in a manner that accurately balanced reality with ambition.

During the discussions, we all sensed that the atmosphere was that of one delegation from one country and not a meeting among four delegations from four countries. All were eager to discuss things for the sake of maturing this paragraph and developing that agreement through joint faith and a real desire to find a new advanced formula for joint Arab action. With the help of God Almighty and through the faithful efforts of brothers, the heads of governments, and members of delegations and technicians, we managed to work out 16 agreements that will help to raise the edifice of the ACC so that it will be a symbol of Arab civilization in the modern age.

Mr Chairman, honorable leaders of the ACC member states: The success attained in the march of the ACC

throughout the past 7 months is profound in meaning and large in its material size as well. The basic motive to achieve these successes was and continues to be our strong belief that the ambition of the ACC leaders is very great and that they view the ACC as a new Arab offspring to which care and attention should be given in order to grow in a natural and sound manner. Our four leaders are also confident that the Arab masses in our large Arab homeland pin great hopes on the ACC to fulfill their pan-Arab ambitions and aspirations so that its birth will supersede all previous unsuccessful formulas.

Although we take great pride in what was achieved, what awaits us is also great. The most important undeclared agreement is that the spirit of harmony, understanding, and cordial fraternal relations among leaders Saddam Husayn, Husni Mubarak, Husayn Ibn-Talal, and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has been reflected in the heads of government in the ACC states. This spirit was also present at the meetings of ministers and officials in the professional and popular organizations. This is the greatest accomplishment, considering it the solid basis on which other aims are built.

Mr Chairman, the serious and persevering work characterizing the past 7 months, and the work as one team with a unified vision will continue as a permanent and not a temporary trend because all are fully convinced that the ACC came for the welfare of all and that rendering it a success and developing it are the responsibility of all. Here we stress what President Saddam Husayn said in his speech on the 21st anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution. He said that we are confident that the ACC will achieve its aims and programs in a firm, objective, and progressive manner in the interest of its four members and the Arab nation and in consolidation of Arab solidarity and joint Arab action.

On this occasion, I would like to express in my own name and on behalf of my brothers the heads of government of the ACC states our lavish thanks and pride in the great confidence accorded to us by our honorable leaders. We pledge to work with the same large determination and enthusiasm in order to achieve the ACC's noble objectives. I would also like to express my great thanks to my brothers Dr 'Atif Sidqi, Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani for their serious and constructive cooperation which helped me a great deal in performing the mission I was honored to undertake during my chairmanship of the first session of the council.

I hope that we have succeeded in carrying out our responsibility for the good of our four countries and the loftiness, unity, and prosperity of our Arab nation. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Leaders Approve 16 Agreements

NC2509195289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Sanaa, 25 Sep (MENA)—During the opening meeting of the second session—the Sanaa summit—of the Supreme Council of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], the council approved 16 agreements arrived at when the ACC Ministerial Council met recenily in Baghdad.

ACC Secretary General Hilmi Nammar has stated that the economic and parliamentary agreements are the most important. He added that the agreements were approved unanimously by the leaders of the ACC member states.

Arab League Discusses Israeli Missile Test

LD2509133489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1214 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Tunis, Sept 25 (KUNA)—The Council of the Arab League started here Monday an emergency session to discuss Israel's launching of a missile in the Mediterranean Sea 400 kilometers off the Libyan coast.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said at the opening session that the launching of the missile is "the last stage in a series of similar experiments on medium-range ballistic missiles by Israel."

He added that the first experiment was conducted in May of 1987 and the second was in September of last year.

"Israel's determination to upgrade its missiles' capability indicates that the Zionists plan to launch attacks against any Arab target," Klibi speculated.

"What Israel has done on the 14th of this month by launching a nuclear-capable missile is a new evidence on Israel's continued policy of aggression and expansion and its readiness to increase tension in the area," he asserted.

The council will end its meetings later today and will issue a statement indicating what precautions should be taken in such cases.

Tunis Radio Reports Further

LD2509153989 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] [Announcer] At the request of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, the Arab League Council held an emergency session this morning to discuss the subject of Israel's firing a medium-range missile, which landed in the Mediterranean Sea 400 km from the city of Banghazi. The session is being chaired by the delegate from Oman, and is attended by Chedli Klibi, secretary-general of the Arab League. Abdelmajid al-Mrasi reports from the Arab League premises:

[Al-Mrasi] Chedli Klibi, secretary-general of the Arab League, opened the session. In his speech he said that the firing of the Israeli missile, Jericho II, which landed near the Libyan coast, was an operational test of a medium-range ballistic missile, and was the last in a series of similar tests of this type of missile. The first of these took place in May 1987 and the second, which was a repeat of a test which took place in May 1988, occurred in September 1988.

Chedli Klibi added: The leaders of the Zionist entity have boasted of their ability to bring death and destruction to any Arab country. They rely first of all on the air force, secondly on naval raids, thirdly on parachute drops, and on other means of aggression. The Israeli war machine has indeed practiced that, in one way or another, in the depths of Egyptian, Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian, Iraqi, and Tunisian territories, and it has boasted that its forces can strike at any Arab country. That capability has now become a reality: Israel's reach has now been lengthened and strengthened by these ballistic missiles, which could be used at any time Israel chooses.

The secretary-general of the Arab League said that the responsibility of the states that cooperate with Israel in the military field, foremost among them being the United States whose previous administration was entangled in an open-ended strategic alliance with Israel, cannot be ignored. The U.S. Administration thus finds itself in a contradictory position: on one hand it is concerned to find peaceful solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict within the framework of international law, and on the other hand it has to give unlimited assistance to a war machine used to violate the values held by the American nation, in accordance with its alliance with Israel. Chedli Klibi concluded his speech by saying that the task in the present situation is to intensify Arab efforts aimed at halting the Zionist entity's strike force, as a temporary measure to prevent dangers and to gradually develop a strong and deterrent national security system. We thank the Jamahiriyah for drawing the attention of its sister states to the need for this action.

[Announcer] The session concluded its work by making a number of decisions. These will be summarized for us by 'Abdal-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, commissioner general of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to the Arab League.

[Al-'Ubaydi] The delegates' decisions alert the international community to the danger of this action by the Zionist enemy, which threatens peace and security in the Arab region and in the Mediterranean Sea. It was agreed that the Arab states and the league will follow up this subject at various political levels and during their contacts. I think this is the beginning of following up the subject because the council of the league will, in its forthcoming session in March, certainly address itself to this subject. Also, the Arab states and their delegates [words indistinct] this subject, as it is a problem for the Arab states and [words indistinct].

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Senate Pressured To Refuse 'Arafat Visa

NC2409074089 Cairo MENA in English 0618 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept. 24 (MENA)—AL-ITTIHAD newspaper published here today reported that members of the U.S. Senate were currently signing a new message addressed to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker urging him not to grant an entry visa to the United States to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to deliver a speech before the United Nations General Assembly. Quoting a prominent Congress source, the paper said that 53 members have already signed the message as a result of the pressure of the Zionist lobby in Washington after learning the intention of the U.S. State Department to grant 'Arafat a visa to New York. A State Department source said that his department hopes that the Palestinian president retracts his determination to present a request for a visa to avoid a clash beteween the State Department and the Congress which could negatively affect the continuation of Palestinian-American dialogue which the Bush administration sees the necessity of its continuation.

'Source' Cited on PLO Stance on Egyptian Plan

JN2509171289 Dubay AL-BAYAN in Arabic 24 Sep 89 pp 1, 7

[Fathi al-Bargawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] A Palestinian source has told AL-BAYAN that in its recent political contacts, the PLO was eager to emphasize the need for the participation of a UN representative, the five Security Council permanent member-states, and some EC countries in any talks between Palestinian and Israeli delegations. The source, however, did not stress the need for these parties to participate actively in the talks, hinting that it is enough for them to attend so that the talks can enjoy serious respectability and take on an international dimension.

The Palestinian source, which preferred anonymity, explained that what has been described as Egyptian questions, which consist of 10 points, have not, to date, been accepted or rejected by the PLO, because the issue, as the source put it, is still at the exploratory stages, and especially since sharp internal Israeli disagreements still exist over these points.

The source said the PLO did not view the Egyptian points as an integrated plan, but only as a discussion of details. This allows the Palestinian side to raise the subjects it wants, but it stresses that the talks, no matter what level they are held at, must not be at the expense of the international conference.

The source expressed the belief that reaching an agreement through Egypt on arranging introductory Palestinian-Israeli talks will still face the dilemma of the topics to be discussed in the talks. The source explained that radical differences still exist between the two sides.

The Palestinian source pointed out that both Israel and the United States want the agenda to be confined to the subject of elections in the occupied territories. The PLO, on the other hand, would prefer to stick to discussing the political bases and the substantial issues such as the withdrawal of the Israeli forces, the Palestinian peoples' right to self-determination, and the convening of the international conference.

Asked by AL-BAYAN whether there is an understanding between the PLO and Egypt on the formation of the Palestinian delegation, the Palestinian source denied that this subject had been discussed in any meeting between officials of the two sides at any level. The source explained that the Palestinian-Egyptian coordination has reached advanced stages, but pointed out that differences with Israel in this respect exist. Israel, the source added, insists on interfering in the composition of the Palestinian delegation, while the PLO rejects this and insists on noninterference in the identity of any of its delegation members. The source recalled what Faysal al-Husayni had said; namely, that all the Palestinians in the diaspora, including Yasir 'Arafat himself, are deportees.

Concluding the statement to AL-BAYAN, the Palestinian source pointed out that the recent Egyptian moves do not reflect a political objective as much as they aim at initiating Palestinian-Israeli dialogue on the Shamir plan. The source explained that the 10 points mostly provide a vehicle for the elections; they do not propose a comprehensive political plan. Therefore, the PLO remains largely unconcerned about the Egyptian plan.

Al-Quds Radio Reports Increased Jamming

JN2509140089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Brother strugglers, the Zionist American enemy which claims to uphold democracy and proposes the election project in implementation of its democratic claims—this Zionist American enemy which insists on describing its relations and activities as democratic—this same Zionist American enemy is daily proving that it cannot confront speech or song, the name of a martyr, or an injured, or detained member of our heroic Palestinian Arab people.

O brother strugglers, this Zionist American enemy—whom some are drooling to hold a dialogue with—does not allow the Palestinian word to be broadcast and reach our people.

O brother strugglers, since noon on Sunday, 24 September, the enemy has stepped up its jamming of al-Quds radio, the Palestinian Arab radio for the liberation of land and man, your radio station, the station of those whose voices have been silenced so long.

O brother strugglers, the Zionist American enemy is increasing its attacks on al-Quds radio and stepping up its campaign of jamming it at a time when the capitulation steps are accelerating.

O brother strugglers, the Zionist American enemy and those who support the capitulation steps cannot confront the Palestinian word or tune. They resort to jamming al-Quds radio in an attempt to suppress facts and conceal the capitulation steps. Our people, however, are wiser and more knowledgeable of these measures and of the jamming of their radio, al-Quds radio, the Palestinian Arab radio for the liberation of land and man. God is with us. Victory is near. Together we will march on the path of liberating land and man.

PLO Official Urges International Support

NC1709154389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1201 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah Movement representative and PLO charge d'affaires in Cairo, has urged the international community to support the Palestinian people in the occupied territories against the Israeli occupation authorities' inhuman, oppressive, and arbitrary practices, particularly the attempts to evict Palestinians from their homes.

The Palestinian official said in a statement the Palestinian people's steadfastness 7 years after the Sabra and Shatila massacre proves that all Israeli plans to annihilate the Palestinians will not dissuade them from continuing the struggle for their legitimate rights, foremost among which is their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state.

Al-Qidrah said that the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territory is the most eloquent answer to the Sabra and Shatila masacres. He said that the Palestinians have suffered 900 martyrs, 54,000 wounded, and 58,000 detainees since the intifadah began. He stated that as long as the occupation of Palestinian land continues, nothing will stop the intifadah.

Fatah Revolutionary Council Members Appointed

JN2509064889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Sep 89 p 24

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—In a meeting held in Tunis on 22 September the Fatah Central Committee decided to appoint new members of the Fatah Revolutionary Council. They are Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, 'Umar al-Khatib, Yahya 'Ashur, Abu-Usamah Muhammad, Abu-Tariq al-Shurafa', 'Abdallah Ifranji, Nabil 'Amr, 'Uthman Abu-Gharbiyah, Sa'id al-Muzayyin, Nabil Sha'th, and Amin al-Hindi. The Central Committee, however, postponed the appointment of three Central Committee members.

Permanent Bureau for Deportees Set Up in Amman

JN2509163389 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 24 Sep 89 pp 1, 7

[Text] Amman, 24 Sep—The establishment of a permanent bureau for the affairs of Palestinians deported from the occupied territories was announced in Amman yesterday. The bureau was formed by a preparatory commission that held continuous meetings in the Jordanian capital over the past 2 days.

The bureau comprises lawyer Ibrahim Bakr as president; lawyer Yasir 'Amr and Dr Hanna Nasir as vice presidents; Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Haj Ahmad as rapporteur; and Marwan al-Barghuthi as treasurer.

The most prominent tasks of the bureau, formed with the approval of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, are collecting deportees' documents and arranging the necessary contacts to assemble them before inviting all those deported from the occupied Palestinian territories since 1967 to hold their first conference.

A Palestinian source told AL-BAYAN that the proposed conference will be able to raise the issue of the deportees on the Arab and international levels with a view to enabling them to return to their occupied homeland, from which they have been forcibly expelled. The conference will also highlight the role of the deportees in any future negotiations, as they can be the "compromise" between the Israeli proposal for negotiations with the Palestinians inside the occupied territories and the PLO's insistence on including Palestinians from outside the occupied territories in these negotiations.

DFLP's Hawatimah on Negotiations, Peace Plans

JN2509131989 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] In a statement he made today, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], affirmed that the PLO is the only side that has the right to name its delegation to any UN-sponsored negotiations in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations on the Middle East crisis and the Palestine question.

Hawatimah added that no Arab capital is entitled to name the Palestinian delegation and that the Palestinian leadership has not asked any Arab capital to convey the names of the members of the Palestinian delegation to Washington, pointing out that the channels of communication are currently open between Washington and the PLO. In his statement, Hawatimah reiterated his rejection of Shamir's plan and the U.S.-Israeli elections project, which is aimed, he said, at disrupting the Palestinian people's unity and creating alternatives to the PLO.

Hawatimah also said the Egyptian 10-point plan does not meet the Palestinian peace initiative and is not in harmony with the resolution of the Casablanca summit conference which calls for a comprehensive and balanced solution within the framework of an effective international conference. At the end of his statement, Hawatimah affirmed that the collective Palestinian position on the need for a UN-sponsored withdrawal from the occupied state of Palestine can lead to free and democratic elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Algeria

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives on 1-Day Visit 25 Sep

LD2509211189 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Algeria this morning. [passage omitted] The head of the state of Palestine left Algeria this afternoon. He was seen off by Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Central Committee.

'Arafat Meets With Bendjedid

LD2509211289 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpts] At the top of this newscast we review the presidential activities and record the meeting today at the Presidential Palace between President Chadli Bendjedid and Yasir 'Arafat, the head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

During this meeting, Yasir 'Arafat informed the head of state about the results of his mediation between Senegal and Mauritania and the latest developments in the occupied territories.

The meeting was attended by Abu al-Hawl and Abu al-'Ala', members of the Fatah Central Committee; Abu al-'Izz, Palestinian ambassador to Algeria; and Abdelaziz Khellef, Algerian secretary of state for Maghreb affairs.

After leaving the office of the president, Yasir 'Arafat stood among the journalists and gave a statement. Here it is:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I am happy with this good meeting with the president. I informed him about the details of the recent tour in which I visited Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, and Mali. I explained to him all the matters and details I noticed and witnessed, especially the needed efforts to end the disputes between these friendly and fraternal countries.

At the same time I informed the president about the current developments in our occupied territories, especially the crazy criminal escalation carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities against our children and women. [passage omitted]

I also informed the president about current political developments and contacts in the Palestinian arena, whether local, Arab, or international contacts.

We also discussed the situation in Lebanon and the importance of fraternal Lebanon reaching stability, territorial integrity, national unity, safety, and security, and for the state of Lebanon to spread its sovereignty over all Lebanese territories. God willing, we will cooperate in this direction with all means and methods. [end recording]

FLN Conference Continues for 2d Day

LD2109122989 Algiers APS in English 1050 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] Algiers, 21/9/89 (APS)—The national conference of FLN [National Liberation Front] leaders ended yesterday after fruitful and frank debates among former and current senior officials in the FLN.

Never before such freedom and such frankness has characterised any meeting. Participants, 400, leading figures of the revolution analysed in their interventions the current situation and the prospects for the future. The purpose of this conference being a wide and deep exchange of views among different generations of the FLN. They all insisted on the necessity to modernise the FLN and to adapt it to reforms through efficient means in order to face up the economic, social, moral, and economic crisis. Besides the crisis of confidence between the institutions and the state including FLN and the people.

Some of the participants asked for the postponing of the coming FLN Congress scheduled for next month.

Yesterday's session was marked by the intervention of Abdelaziz Bouteflika, former foreign minister (under Boumediene) in his first public appearance since his dismissal. He hailed the holding of such a meeting that gathers all members of FLN family in a move to strengthen it and give it the best conditions for a political future. He pledged for an historic process leading to a coherent policy answering expectations of the people.

For Bouteflika, democracy in transparence constitutes an important gain to the FLN. The future of FLN, he said, lies today in a new political era. Notions of patriotism, nationalism, socialism should be renovated in the official speech. Sovereignty and national independence, the fundamental principles of the revolution are in the balance.

The project of a socialist society followed till 1979, is for A. Bouteflika the best choice, or at least the less bad. Negative effects deriving from socialism are controllable.

Another former official; who was till last year foreign minister, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi underlined that regaining confidence is conditioned first of all by the setting up of a social justice. Like A. Bouteflika, he announced that he is not interested in any official post. All that he wants he said is that these participants should be invited to the congress scheduled for next month.

As for Bachir Boumaza, former information minister under Boumediene, he said his happiness is to find once again a speech without censorship. He voiced his big fear for the current situation in the country, a political blank where population does not see itself neither in the FLN neither in the opposition.

A leading figure of the former Council of the Revolution constituted by Boumediene and his companions in 1965

after the eviction of Ben Bella, said this conference came about time to clarify things. Tahar Z'biri said the FLN will never hoist the white flag. Many participants expressed satisfaction for this conference came to reconciliate the FLN with its memory.

In his closing speech the secretary general of the FLN expressed wish to see this frank dialogue carried on under others forms and through other channels. For him, this is the tangible evidence that children of FLN want to pursue this mission. He precised that in the present phase the FLN needs all efforts, energies, and experiences.

He said the necessity is to adapt mentalities in this particular phase and to be more efficient on the field. H. Mehri indicated in conclusion that he will get in touch with all iformer leaders of FLN to take their advice and suggestions in order to guarantee the success of the next congress, which, he said will be the crowning of our will and the will of the people.

New Socialist Party Approved by Government

LD2509082889 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpt] A new party has joined the national political life: it is called the Socialist Forces Front [Jabhat al-Qiwa al-Ishtirakiyyah]. The party submitted its file to the Ministry of the Interior yesterday. [passage omited]

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on ACC, Peace Prospects

JN2509180489 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Sep 89 pp 1, 10

[By Hasan 'Ashur]

[Excerpts] Sanaa—The second session of the Supreme Council of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] will start in Sanaa tomorrow. [passage omitted]

In his first statement to the Yemen Arab Republic press, President Husni Mubarak stressed that cooperation in the field of military industrialization among the ACC countries is possible, will not harm, but will benefit the Arab nation.

President Mubarak said that political cooperation among the ACC countries should be identical to and achieve the Arab League's political goals. He added: Regarding military cooperation, I can say it is a sensitive issue and must be studied carefully. We cannot say that the ACC is cooperating militarily. He pointed out that if there is cooperation in the field of military industrialization, the Arab nation will benefit from that cooperation.

In his statement to the YAR newspaper AL-THAWRAH published yesterday, the president affirmed: We do not want alliances and we do not work within axes. We are cooperating in the economic and political areas under the canopy of the Arab League in the interest of our peoples and the Arab nation.

Mubarak said that when the ACC leaders talked about defense during the Alexandria summit conference, they referred to the collective Arab defense pact and called for strengthening it, because it is important to us as an Arab nation. He added that we have not worked out anything special for the four countries that may conflict with our status as part of the Arab nation which must stick to cooperation.

Asked about an Arab reaction to a possible Israeli aggression like the one that was committed against Lebanon in 1982, bearing in mind the establishment of the Arab groupings, President Mubarak said: If an aggression is carried out by Israel or any other side, we will resort to the collective Arab defense pact and, more accurately, to the "Economic Cooperation and Collective Arab Defense Pact."

He added: Unless it is economically sound, no Arab country can support any other Arab country. This means that both aspects of the pact should be applied, a step which will require intensive meetings.

He wondered: If any Arab country wages a war against a country without any appartent reason or because of a trivial problem, does this mean that the whole Arab nation should be involved in the war?

The president said: We call for a peaceful settlement of the disputes. The collective Arab defense pact itself has its own way to solve these disputes.

Asked about the ability of diplomatic action to solve the Palestine problem, the president said: The Palestine question can be solved only through peaceful means. He added: Wars have been waged for 40 years because of this issue. It has not been solved because wars do not solve problems. A war may revive the issue, but will end and will be replaced by the forces of peace.

President Mubarak added: We are exerting efforts with the PLO in this regard, and the PLO has made many concessions. Now it is Israel's turn to move in this direction. We are seeking a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. Israel has been living in a state of war for 40 years. If the Israelis taste peace, they will never think about war, from which only a small group benefits, while every citizen everywhere benefits from peace. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak Reviews Economic Reform Plan

NC1909191089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1313 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that, during his meeting today with the Cabinet economic group, President Mubarak reviewed the continuing consultations and talks with the IMF and the World Bank prior to the joint meetings of the IMF and World Bank boards that are due to take place shortly. A delegation led by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri,

deputy prime minister and minister of planning, will represent Egypt at these discussions.

During the meeting today, President Mubarak emphasized that the Egyptian economic reform plan is being implemented in accordance with well thought out and gradual steps and phases that are within the capacity of Egyptian society and the capabilities of the economic institutions. Toward that end, he said, Egypt has benefited from the experiments that have been carried out in other countries and has learned from the adverse socioeconomic consequences that resulted. President Mubarak noted that the economic reform measures overlap, giving priority to social considerations, the availability of the necessary investments for the development plan, and the safeguarding of stability.

The president also reviewed the consultations that Egypt has had with several world countries, noting that he will hold further contacts during his visits to France and the United States. He stressed that Egypt is taking advantage of its international and regional standing and weight to serve the region's causes, and this reflects on the outside world's support for Egypt's socioeconomic plans.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi outlined the main features of the policy followed by the government in order to streamline the economy. According to Dr Sidqi, the government's financial policy seeks to reduce the deficit in the budget, increase revenues and cut down expenditure, achieve a balance between imports and exports, ensure the availability of basic commodities and production requirements, arrange for the investments needed to carry out the various projects envisaged in the 5-year plan, and introduce gradual reforms of the exchange and interest rates. Dr Sidqi stressed that this policy will not result in any burdens on the consumers with respect to the basic commodities. Instead, it aims to upgrade performance in the agricultural and industrial sectors with a view to increasing production in these sectors so that market needs may be met, new jobs created, investment encouraged, and capital attracted.

The information minister said the Egyptian team will meet with the IMF director and World Bank chairman before the meetings begin at which the ongoing talks will resume.

Central Bank Governor Dr Salah Hamid, Finance Minister Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz, and Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, are also members of Egypt's delegation to the meetings, which is led by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri.

Economic Delegation Leaves for Washington Talks

NC2109113089 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1110 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, left Cairo for Washington today at the head of an economic delegation including Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, to resume talks with the IMF and the World Bank on the likelihood of deferring the payment of interests due on Egypt's debts and loans owed to the two world institutions.

Before leaving Cairo, Dr al-Janzuri stated that he will also attend the annual joint meeting of the World Bank Board of Directors and the IMF, due to begin in Washington on Monday, 25 September. [passage omitted]

Ghali Leaves for Paris To Prepare Mubarak Visit

NC2109123789 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1115 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Paris today for talks with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Dr Ghali will also hold talks with officials in the French presidential office to prepare for President Mubarak's forthcoming visit to France, which will take place after Mubarak leaves Washington.

Dr Ghali will later head for Washington for talks with the U.S. Administration. [passage omitted]

Ghali Interviewed on Arab, African Issues

JN2209190089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo
in Arabic 1718 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Interview with Dr Butrus Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, by Faridah al-Shubashi in Paris on 22 September—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shubashi] We would like you to tell us about the results of your talks with the French officials, particularly your talks with Roland Dumas.

[Ghali] I held intensive talks with the French foreign minister today and with several officials from the Ministry of Cooperation and Development and the Ministry [as heard] of Francophone Affairs and International Cultural Relations. The purpose of these talks is to conduct further consultations and coordination between the Egyptian and French diplomatic offices. This is so because Egypt and France have common objectives on some African, Arab, and international issues.

With respect to Arab issues, we discussed President Husni Mubarak's initiative, and the importance of this initiative to extricate the Palestinian cause from the deadlock. French diplomacy supports President Mubarak's initiative. A summit-level meeting between Presidents Mubarak and Mitterrand will be held in the next few days for further consultations between the Egyptian and French diplomatic missions. The discussion also dealt with some African issues, primarily the Egyptian mediation in some African disputes.

President Mubarak was asked to play the role of mediator in the dispute between Senegal and Mauritania. He was also asked to mediate in the dispute between Guinea-Bissau and Senegal. Egyptian diplomacy is striving for peaceful settlements with respect to the differences between the north and the south in Sudan, between Eritrea and Ethiopia, between Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] and Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance Movement], and between UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] and the Angolan Government.

The objective of Egyptian diplomacy is the settlement of African disputes through peaceful means, and, if possible, within an African framework. The African Continent is in dire need of stability so that it may tackle the real issues, the issues of development, poverty, backwardness, and desertification. Among the important international issues of concern to the Egyptian and French sides is the issue of North-South dialogue. As we know, Egypt, India, Senegal, and Venezuela submitted a four-way initiative to conduct a dialogue between the North and the South.

This initiative submitted on 14 July this year was supported by the African summit. An African summit resolution was issued, tasking President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to take charge of the necessary measures, or to carry out the necessary arrangements to translate the idea of dialogue into reality. Also at the Belgrade summit a resolution was issued supporting this four-way initiative. A fourth [as heard] country, the SFRY, joined these countries in view of its being responsible for the Nonaligned Movement. This issue, that of North-South dialogue, and the steps that should be implemented to enable us to pursue our work to hold this dialogue—despite the existence of some obstacles which some countries in the North have raised—were the topic of discussion between me and several French officials.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency the Minister, you have tackled the issue of President Mubarak's initiative. In this regard, we would like to ask you—because different names have been used to describe it—is it an initiative, proposal, paper, or a settlement plan? There are many reactions to it, depending on these names.

[Ghali] We should speak clearly. It is not an initiative. It is rather an interpretation or a call for an interpretation of some measures to be adopted by the Israeli side if we want the elections that will be held in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to be real elections that can lead to the settlement of the Palestine question. It is a group of questions and procedures, which we believe, if adopted, will contribute to the success of the elections. The success of these elections may lead to a beginning of a dialogue between the Palestinian people and the Israeli Government.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency the Minister, what is Cairo's position on the U.S. stance, which does not approve of some of the points that are mentioned in these proposals or initiatives?

[Ghali] In fact, we have begun intensive contacts here in France with other countries to convince these countries of the significance of these measures that will help in rendering the elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip a success.

[Al-Shubashi] Is Egypt optimistic about the possibility of securing a positive Israeli response as a result of the situation in the occupied territories and the intifadah [uprising] which has been going on for approximately 2 years?

[Ghali] We should not belittle the current difficulties pertaining to the Israeli position, to the crisis of confidence, or to the indifference of the international community to the international issues as a result of other pressing issues. But we should work and work to achieve the desired goal of the diplomatic move that has been continuing for several years. This goal is aimed at enabling the struggling Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.

[Al-Shubashi] Did your talks deal with the Lebanese crisis and the current efforts of the tripartite Arab committee?

[Ghali] Without a doubt, the Lebanese issue was discussed. I have just heard that Michel 'Awn has approved the tripartite initiative. We welcome this approval. We hope that the tripartite Arab committee will succeed so that peace and security will prevail in fraternal Lebanon.

[Al-Shubashi] Thank you, Dr Butrus Ghali.

Army Chief of Staff Returns From France

NC2409214089 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2110 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)—Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Safiyy-al-Din Shinaf returned to Cairo from Paris tonight concluding a 1-week visit to France during which he held discussions with French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement on ways of promoting and bolstering the military relations between Egypt and France. [passage omitted]

Romanian Delegation Leaves Cairo 24 Sep

NC2409073589 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0645 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)—The members of the Romanian parliamentary delegation led by Nicolae Giosan left Cairo this morning after a 4-day visit, during which they were received by President Husni Mubarak.

During the visit, the delegation members held talks with People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub and Consultative Council Speaker Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi on bilateral cooperation, particularly in the parliamentary field.

Communist Party Defendants Ordered Released

JN2209081589 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Sep 89 p 10

[Text] Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud, attorney general of the Supreme State Security Prosecution Office, has ordered the release of 10 defendants in the case of the Egyptian Workers Communist Party. The defendants are Riyadh Rif'at, 'Abd-al-Khaliq Faruq, Mahmud Murtada, Muhammad al-Hafnawi, Jamal 'Abd-al-Hadi, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Abd-al-Hadi, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Shinnawi, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Razzaq, 'Imad Hamid, and Ahmad Siddiq.

The prosecution will today examine the order to extend of the arrest of other defendants in the case.

Children on Religious Outing Said Arrested

NC2509073189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Egyptian police yesterday arrested 80 children and 13 guides who were on an outing in Alexandria. The Muslim Brotherhood is believed to have arranged the picnic in order to give religious instruction to the children. The apartments the children were staying in had been rented by Dr 'Isam-al-Din al-'Aryan, member of the physicians union's executive committee, prominent Muslim Brotherhood figure, and member of the Egyptian People's Assembly. The Egyptian Interior Ministry declined to comment on the arrests and said that the case is now in the hands of the public prosecutor. The police believe that the children, some only 4 years old, received antigovernment religious instruction with the aim of ultimately recruiting them into Islamic societies.

Libya

Government Demands Compensation From Italy

LD2509092489 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Speaking of the right of Great Jamahiriyah to recompensation [as received] from Italy over the damages incurred upon the Libyan Arab people during the period of occupation, the local affairs editor of JANA say that the leader of the revolution reaffirmed in his speech at the Non-Aligned Movement summit held in Yugoslavia the rights of the Libyan Arabs to recompensation for the years of occupation and Italian colonialisation. These rights were demanded by the people's congresses in Great Jamahiriyah. These congresses have the power and through which the masses of the Libyan Arab people are organized.

The editor adds that the UN at frequent sessions supported these rights stressing the rights of the peoples plighted by colonialisation to redeem their treasures and remains that were stolen and are on display in the museums of the former colonizers.

We have been distressed by the reaction of some Italian officials and Italian media organs. Some of them have resorted to quibbling. Others have rejected our right to recompensation. Young people at present can have an access to the documents and the history of this period of colonialisation which exceeded 30 years. Racial liquidation against the Libyan Arabs was conducted pursuing the dreams cherished by invaders regarding the fourth coast of the empire of Rome.

We don't think that there is any modern and civilized person [who] would reject the principle of recompensation expressing regret and apology for a hateful period during which Italy conducted inhuman acts against unarmed and peaceable people.

We don't believe that recompensation—regardless of its total sum—can be equal to the sufferings, execution and displacement of tens of thousands of citizens besides looting lands, farms and documents and archaelogical remains leaving behind the remains of mines and world wars. The countries of the axis, fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, desired to have our country a battle-field for this war and have our people as the victims of this war.

The Basic People's Congresses have decided to commit the people's committees to continuously demand that Italy recompensate for an invasion and colonialisation that continued for a quarter of a century during which our people suffered its consequences unseen elsewhere worldwide.

The crimes perpetrated by Hitler compared to what the fascist Italians did to the Libyan Arabs would seem less horrible. So, while denouncing the quibblings of some Italian officials on this issue, we call upon the free people believing in democracy and human rights to make up for a black record perpetrated against Libya. Such imprints of this record are still seen.

We reconfirm our demand to have our inalienable rights hoping others resort to conscience and sense as they are our neighbours living on the opposite coast of the Mediterranean so as we leaf over black pages in the relations between the two countries. [sentence as received]

The General People's Congress, being the get-together of the people's congresses and people's committees, unions and vocational associations have formulated at various sessions the resolutions of Basic People's Congress including the following:

1.—Demanding that Italy pay recompensations for the damages incurred upon the Libyan Arab people due to the Italian invasion of Libya.

2.—Demanding that Italy, Germany and Britain which planted mines in Libyan Arab soil hand over the maps and all information regarding these mines, apart from eliminating them holding them responsible for all the damages resulting from them alongside demanding that they recompensate for this.

3.—Italy should clarify the destiny of the Libyan Arabs exiled during the Italian occupation of Libya bringing back those still alive of them or their relatives and their possessions, apart from showing the places in which the martyrs (deceased) were buried to bring back their bodies to be reburied in their pure soil on the mourning date on 26th October every year. Last year the relatives of the lost people handed a note to the Italian Embassy in Tripoli addressed to the Italian Government including many points.

4.—Demanding that Italy eliminate the nuclear heads in Comiso base in south Italy becase it (?represents) a threat and danger against the Arab nation especially the Libyan Arab lands.

5.—The necessity of urging Italy and committing it to speed up settling these things putting an end to its procrastinations exercising various pressures on it using all peaceful means including taking it to court apart from raising this issue at international and regional forums designating the relations between Libyan and Italy upon this.

6.—Assigning the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison the job of following up the implementation of these resolutions and to contact the Italian Government. Should this government fail to respond, the Basic People's Congresses will be obliged to take measures they see appropriate besides the legitimacy of having every and each individual incurring a damage will behave in the appropriate manner to avenge his right and redeem his right should the Italian Government fail to respond to these legitimate demands. [sentence as received]

JANA Reiterates Demand

LD2509185589 Tripoli JANA in English
1743 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The London-based newspaper, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, gave yesterday horrific pictures of the liquidationist campaigns conducted by the Italian colonialists during their conquest of Libya describing this colonial rule as savage.

In its report on the Libyan deportees to island in southern Italy, the paper quoted an eye-witness to say that the Italians buried some people alive while others died forthwith while the Italians carried them with fishing nets to another place.

The editor of local affairs of JANA, commenting on the above report, says that the procrastination on the part of the Italian Government to meet the just demand of the Libyan Arab people to be paid reparations for the damages inflicted upon it and upon its land and possessions during this dark chapter can only be interpreted as a cover-up for these horrific crimes. It also reinforces the principle of holding Italy responsible today for these crimes. It makes us also reaffirm the right of our people to be recompensated.

Italy can make up for this wrongdoing by speeding up meeting this demand and reveal the fate of 5 thousand Libyan deportees and the fate of their offsprings and the graves of those among them who died then.

The editor adds that the insistence on the part of some Italian officials to give pretexts to the so-called 1956 Accord between the perished rule of the monarchy and the Italian Government doesn't show the good will of Italy to respond to the demands of the Libyan Arab people, for this Accord and the Article 16 don't mean that Italy signed for paying reparations to Libya for the colonial rule, the destruction and horrific crimes perpetrated by the invaders. There, they mean that the sum of money paid by Italy as mentioned in the Article was given as a contribution from Italy for Libyan economy as a charity or a loan. Also, there is no other thing in this article other than the Libyan state would act in place of the Italian state to safeguard the Italian citizens in Libya giving them protection.

The editor maintains that because of this, the Italian Government should meet the demand of reparations. Even such a demand is regarded by Libyans as a concession on their part for maintaining world peace and for building a future without prejudice.

The editor maintains that the start of a new chapter in the course of Libyan Arab-Italian relations depends on the extent of practical steps taken by Italy in the direction of meeting this demand.

Mauritania

President Taya Receives Visiting Yasir 'Arafat

AB2209210389 Dakar PANA in French
1735 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Dakar, 22 Sep (TAP/PANA)—The Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, today in Nouakchott received Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian State and chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO. This has been reported by Mauritanian radio monitored in Dakar.

The radio, which gave no details on the purpose of the visit or the topics discussed, added that the Palestinian leader was accompanied by an important delegation. After Nouakchott, Mr 'Arafat is expected to visit Senegal the same day and he will be welcomed upon his arrival by President Abdou Diouf.

This is the second visit by the Palestinian leader to these two countries since May, when he tried to mediate in the Senegalese-Mauritanian conflict.

'Arafat on Intifadah Casualties

AB2409070689 Paris AFP in English 0248 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Nouakchott, Sept 23 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said here Friday that 936 Palestinians had been killed since the start of his people's uprising in the Israeli occupied territories.

While on a visit to the Mauritanian capital, Mr. 'Arafat said that 46,000 people had been injured, including 6,000 handicapped. He added that Israeli use of banned chemical gases in the West Bank and Gaza Strip territories had led to 6,000 abortions. The PLO leader estimated that between 55,000 and 56,000 Palestinians had been taken prisoner by the Israeli military authorities.

An unofficial toll from the uprising, or intifadah, which erupted in December 1987 has put the number of dead at more than 500 and the number of prisoners at about 10,000. Mr. 'Arafat said he was visiting Nouakchott to help solve a diplomatic crisis between Mauritania and Senegal. Mr. 'Arafat was to go on to Senegal.

Sudan

Khalifah Terms Meeting With SPLM 'Success'

PM2509095689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Sep 89 p 5

[Interview with Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution in Sudan, by Majid Yusuf in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Yusuf] Some news agencies and observers have assessed your meeting with the [Sudanese People' Liberation] Movement [SPLM] as a failure. In your view, on what basis did these groups make that judgment?

[Khalifah] I think they relied on only one side, not both. If their view had been objective, they would have known that the meeting was a preliminary one designed to discuss the points we raised with a view to restoring trust between us. We did not discuss any fundamental issues at all. With regard to the issues which we discussed at the meeting, we agreed on three points out of four, which, in my view, is a success. We agreed to continue the dialogue. We also agreed to continue the relief operations and to protect them from both sides. Furthermore, we agreed to have a direct line between us and the movement. We only differed over the suspension of media campaigns. This is why I believe that we succeeded in agreeing on the points raised with a view to restoring trust. As for those who say that we failed, they tend to base their view on the movement's raising of fundamental issues such as Islamic Shari'ah and the military agreements. Because they view matters from that angle, they think we disagreed. We shelved all these issues until the next round of dialogue.

[Yusuf] What is your comment on the statement attributed to Colonel Garang, namely, that you went to the meeting without an agenda and that all you brought with you were measures that can be used when agreement is reached?

[Khalifah] Garang is concerned with his own preconditions, not with our just program. Our program is clear and, as I told you, it is divided into three stages. The first stage is aimed at restoring trust, since all programs put forward for restoring peace in regions of dispute begin with the restoration of trust. The Iraq-Iran war was ended by restoring trust, by announcing the adoption of a cease-fire. The same applies to the conflict in Afghanistan. What is required is to draw up a comprehensive and complete program for the establishment of peace. But Garang's method is to set preconditions such as his demand for the abolition of the joint defense pact between Egypt and Sudan or the abolition of Islamic Shari'ah. He promotes all this over the radio. We presented our program, which was clear. We have finished the first stage of it and are ready for the second stage, then the third stage.

[Yusuf] Press statements have been attributed to Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, leader of the Salvation Revolution, to the effect that you refuse to abolish Islamic Shari'ah, military agreements, and the other Garang preconditions, as you call them. Do you not believe that such statements could hamper the dialogue in the future?

[Khalifah] I do not believe that it will hamper the dialogue, because Lt Gen 'Umar was responding to the movement, which sets these points as preconditions for the dialogue. Such points can be shelved until we know the Sudanese people's opinion. When the Sudanese people agree on that point, we will convey that opinion to the other side. What Lt Gen 'Umar said corresponds with the Sudanese people's view of the matter. Such matters are being raised at the national dialogue conference. [passage omitted]

[Yusuf] Some parties share the view that your talk about the arms issue is simply an attempt to play for time, and that you are making tireless efforts to arm and prepare the Armed Forces. What is your comment?

[Khalifah] The preparation and rehabilitation of the Armed Forces have nothing at all to do with launching attacks on the movement. This, because one of the revolution's main objectives is to rebuild the Armed Forces on modern foundations. And the building process will continue, whether we agree or disagree with the movement, because our strategic objective is peace which, if achieved, needs a force to guard it so that it will not be disrupted once again.

[Yusuf] What about the talk of the resumption of military operations, such as the incident on the Kurmuk road? It has also been reported that the fighting has resumed in areas south of Kordofan.

[Khalifah] It is known that the movement is in disagreement with the government and that its efforts are aimed at hitting the Sudanese Armed Forces, but we agreed on a cease-fire with them. So if any aggression took place somewhere, it is the result of isolated actions, which I do not believe are organized by the movement.

A final word which I address to the movement: I tell them to respond to the appeal for reason, since Sudan has suffered enough wounds. We Sudanese must sit down at the negotiating table in order to resolve our problems, because we can do that without brandishing our weapons.

NSRCC Member Confirms Libyan Arms Supply

EA2509210589 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Following his return from the [word indistinct] Libyan Jamahiriyah, the member of the NSRCC [National Salvation Revolution Command Council], Brigadier PSC [passed staff college] al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir announced that the visit was hopeful. He said that a great success was achieved, especially in the field of supply [words indistinct], adding that Libya had agreed to supply Sudan with petrol according to the previous agreement. He pointed that an amount of 250,000 tonnes of petroleum supplies (?sufficient for consumers) until the end of this year. On the other hand he assured that the current few days shall witness the arrival of the military supplies to Sudan from Libya and that the commerical protocol between Libya and Sudan will be signed and a Sudanese delegation will visit Libya for this purpose.

Khartoum Police Contain Student Demonstrators

JN2509154089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Sep 89 pp 3, 20

[Text] Khartoum, Cairo, 24 Sep—Sudanese riot police yesterday surrounded a number of secondary schools in the al-Thawrah District of Omdurman as students prepared to stage a demonstration against recent economic measures which have raised prices of certain commodities, fees for services, and taxes.

The students were content to shout anti-government slogans from inside the schools and then continued their school day, which ended in peace, while riot police observed the scene from a distance.

It is worth noting that a group of Khartoum University students belonging to certain opposition forces shouted anti-government slogans during a political meeting held at the university last Wednesday [20 September].

In a related development, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, head of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] in Sudan, has expressed his dissatisfaction with former Sudanese President Ja'far al-Numayri's escalation of his information campaign against the policy of the National Salvation Revolution.

Diplomatic circles in Cairo have told AL-ITTIHAD that last week, al-Bashir summoned Muhammad Taqiy-al-Din al-Shirbini, Egypt's ambassador in Khartoum, and asked him to inform Egyptian President Husni Mubarak of the Revolution Command Council members' great concern over the intensification of Numayri's publicity activities and political moves in the past 3 weeks, and his continued criticism of the current situation in Sudan.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Egyptian president promised to ask Numayri to stop all his political and publicity activities and to limit his external contacts during the coming phase.

Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo asserted that Lt Gen al-Bashir rejected a request by a number of NSRCC members to raise the issue of Numayri and to demand his extradition by Egypt to stand trial for the crimes committed against the Sudanese people during the period he was in power.

The sources pointed out that al-Bashir stressed to the NSRCC members the need to avoid any problem with Egypt out of concern for the bilateral ties and Egypt's political, information, and financial support for his revolution.

It is worth mentioning that Egypt had rejected all previous attempts to extradite Numayri and stressed its adherence to the Egyptian Constitution, which forbids the extradition of political refugees.

Hamdi Bar-al-Din [name as published], director of Sudanese radio and television and SUNA chairman, yesterday arrived in Cairo on a short visit to discuss cooperation with similar Egyptian organs.

In another related development, the trial of Pacifico Lado Lolik, former State Council member, was postponed for the second time at the prosecutor's request until Tuesday to continue the investigations into the case.

Trade Unions Reportedly Planning Strikes

AB2509202989 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 25 Sep 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Sudan's ruling Military Council seems to have decided to silence those of its political critics still at large in a follow-up to the sweeping economic austerity measure introduced last week. Those measures are designed to lift Sudan's ailing economy off the floor. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] Brigadier Ibrahim Nayily Din, who is in charge of security in the Military Council, said there have been several arrests in the past few days. He did not give any more details about the detentions, but reports circulating in Khartoum say several Communists have been picked up. Since the government imposed the austerity measures 6 days ago by removing subsidies on basic consumer commodities, and thereby increasing prices and cutting government expenditure, there have been reports that the trade unions which are dominated by Communists and other leftists, have been planning strikes. Trade unions have of course been dissolved, but individual trade unions have apparently been operating underground.

Recently, the Bar Association, the lawyer's trade union, circulated a leaflet calling the new military rulers in Khartoum a group of adventurous soldiers. Then on Wednesday [20 September] evening, a group of students at Khartoum University, a hotbed of opposition to successive governments in Sudan, interrupted a rally being addressed by a member of the Military Council. The students called on the government to resign immediately and restore democracy. No attempts were made to stop the students and there were no arrests then. But government sources blamed Communists for the disturbances, and the arrests then started. More protests are being anticipated. Some doctors have said they will go on strike next Thursday [28 September] to protest at the introduction of the austerity measures. Engineers are also talking of taking industrial action. Strikes are currently illegal in Sudan, and the arrests appear to be aimed at ensuring that strikes do not go ahead. [end recording]

Bahrain

Amir Returns From Belgrade Summit, Europe Visit

JN2509181089 Manama WAKH in English 1609 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Manama, Sept 25 (GNA)—H.H. the amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifah returned home this evening after heading his country's delegation to the 9th non-aligned summit held in Belgrade recently, followed by a private visit to Europe.

H.H. the amir was received upon arrival by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Salman Al Khalifah; Crown Prince and Commander-in-chief of the Defence Force Shaykh Hamad Ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, head of the Amiri Court; and other top officials.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Terms Iranian Accusations 'Amazing'

LD2509201689 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpt] King Fahd Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired the Council of Ministers session held this afternoon at Al-Salam palace in Jeddah.

After the session, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said in a statement to SPA:

At the beginning of today's session, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques talked about a number of issues concerning the political situation in the Arab region in light of reports he received about new events. In this regard, the king expressed his hope that the Lebanese crisis is approaching its end. He pointed out the positive stances announced by all sides concerned with the Lebanese issue. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques stressed anew the necessity for cooperation by all concerned parties with the efforts of the supreme tripartite Arab committee in strengthening the bases of the security plan, facilitating matters, and easing difficulties in order to reach political solutions acceptable to everyone so that Lebanon remains free, independent, and secure in its march and stable in its life.

The minister of information added: After that, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques referred to his talk with the citizens he received last night, Sunday, at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. He stressed three basic points:

First: Saudi Arabia, whose basis was resorting to God's Book and His Prophet's example in all its religious and life affairs, will never hesitate for one second or deviate an inch from implementing God's laws according to the court sentences on anyone who violates the sanctity of the Two Holy Mosques or attempts to violate the country's security. Saudi Arabia, in establishing the right, will not fear any blame and will not be troubled by the attempts of the malicious ones and their false and fictitious media campaigns.

Second: The administration in Saudi Arabia has no authority over the sentences of God's law and court affairs. In this concern its role is restricted to implementing the sentences of the judicial authorities on the culprit, whoever he might be and whatever his affiliations.

Third: Saudi relations with its sister Kuwait are too strong and firm to be affected by attempts to divide or split them. (?It is true that everyone in Kuwait) understands this and understands the extent of cohesion between the two ruling families and the two fraternal peoples. I say that to those who try to drive a wedge between the brothers, not knowing that fraternal Kuwait is as committed to the sanctity of the sacred places and Saudi security as Saudi Arabia itself.

In this concern, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques expressed his extreme amazement at the repeated false accusations relayed by the Iranian media attributed to some Iranian officials. He said: The recent unjustified statements and accusations are amazing. Saudi Arabia has not addressed any accusations to Iran or to any other country concerning the explosions which took place near the Holy Ka'aba during the last pilgrimage season. Saudi Arabia left the matter to the investigator and then left the sentence to the judiciary according to God's law in order to establish God's rulings.

At that time, we heard from some officials in Iran that any person anywhere who committed such a crime in Holy Mecca is condemned and his crime is unforgivable. I do not understand the secret of such a contradiction in Iranian stances and statements. [passage omitted]

King Affirms 'Deep-Rooted' Ties With Kuwait

LD2509212189 Kuwait KUNA in English 2010 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Riyadh, Sept 25 (KUNA)—King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia affirmed the deep-rooted Saudi-Kuwaiti relationship in a statement to Saudi citizens during a reception last night that also tackled situation in the Arab arena.

The monarch, quoted by the Saudi press agency Monday, affirmed that Riyadh's relationship with Kuwait is stronger than any plots or schemes.

King Fahd said that Kuwaiti people and government realize the cohesion between the two ruling families and sisterly peoples.

The sovereign said that he was addressing his statement to those who attempt to spread dissension among the brothers while they are ignorant that sisterly Kuwaitis are as keen as Saudi Arabia on sanctity of sacred shrines and on security of the Kingdom.

Correction to Official Statement on Bombings

LD2109140889

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Ministry of Interior Statement on Hajj Violence" which appeared on page 27 of the 21 September Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT. Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic at 1130 GMT on 21 September rebroadcasts the Interior Ministry statement regarding the Mecca bombings and executions of those involved. The repeat allows for the following fills and corrections:

Page 27, column two, paragraph two, first sentence make read: ...trouble of traveling and left their sons and their property behind, confident of what security God has destined for this house and all those who are in it.

This criminal act... (providing indistinct words)

Column two, paragraph three, first sentence make read: ...16 other pilgrims of various nationalities received injuries of... (supplying additional words)

Page 28, column one, paragraph three, only sentence make read: ...Mansur Hasan 'Abdullah al-Mihaymid: Kuwaiti by nationality... (changing name from "Lasnit" to "Al-Mihaymid")

Column one, paragraph six, only sentence make read: ...Hani Habib Tahir al-Mishti: Kuwaiti by nationality... (changing name from "Al-Misri" to "Al-Mishti")

Column one, paragraph fourteen, only sentence make read: ...of Iranian origin:

Maytham 'Abbas 'Abbas Ghulum... (changing name from "Haytham" to "Maytham")

Page 28, column two, paragraph three, sentence two, make read: ...most sacred shrines. Whereas the dangerous acts carried out by the said individuals did not target the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its people alone, but the whole Islamic... (supplying indistinct words)

Column two, paragraph five, sentence three make read: ...uproot evil and put an end to corruption. The protection and... (supplying indistinct words)

Column two, paragraph seven, only sentence make read: ...Hasan Hasan 'Abdullah al-Mihaymid; 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn... (changing name from "Al-Masnit" to "Al-Mahaymid" and deleting editorial notation)

Column two, paragraph seven, same sentence make read: ...Hani Habib Tahir al-Mishti; 'Adil Muhammad Khalifah... (changing name from "Al-Misri" to "Al-Mishti")

Column two, paragraph seven, same sentence make read: ...Ahmad Abbas Dishti; Maytham 'Abbas 'Abbas Ghulum... (changing name from "Haytham" to "Maytham")

Page 29, column one, paragraph four, only sentence make read: ...Husayn Sayid Baqir al-Tabatabi', Kuwaiti citizen of Iranian origin; Adnan al-Sayid 'Abd al-Samad Ahmad Sayid Jahid, Kuwaiti citizen of... (changing name from "Al- Tartad'i" to "Al-Tabatabi'"; changing name from "Zahid" to "Jahid")

Column one, paragraph four, only sentence make read: ...Fadil Hajji Muhammad Ahmad al-Qatari,... (changing name from "Hasi" to "Hajji")

Page 29, column two, paragraph one, first sentence make read: ...referred to the appeal body. It is... (supplying indistinct word)

Column two, paragraph one, first sentence make read: ...cases are studied. The royal order was then issued for carrying out the sentence which was passed by the judiciary of the said persons. The sentences then became final after having been studied and looked into by all judiciary sources.

The sentences have... (supplying indistinct words)

Column two, paragraph three, only sentence make read: ...Mansur Hasan 'Abdullah al-Mihaymid; 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn 'Ali Muhammad Shams, 'Abd al-Wahab Husayn 'Ali Barun; Hani Habib Tahir al-Mishti; 'Adil Muhammad Khalifah... (changing name from "Al-Mhimid" to "Al-Mihaymid" and deleting editorial notation; changing name from "Al-Misri" to "Al-Mishti")

Saddam Addresses Army General Command on Peace

JN2409073889 Baghdad INA in Arabic
2050 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Sep (INA)—His Excellency President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn this evening met with the members of the Armed Forces General Command on the ninth anniversary of the comprehensive reply to the treacherous Iranian aggression against Iraq.

During the meeting, his excellency the president said: God be praised, we have witnessed 1 year and 19 days of peace in the region.

His excellency the president added: Not only the Iraqi and Iranian peoples stand to benefit from this peace, being the parties directly concerned with the conflict and having been spared much bloodshed and devastation, but also the Arab nation and the world, with its responsible perspective on security and stability, also stand to benefit.

His excellency the president went on to say: Looking back over the past 9 years, we recall that stories have been told about some situations. In fact, stories were told about every situation. There are some stories we want to forget, but there are some that we cannot forget. We will never forget the good deeds, the sacrifices made by the men who offered noble and generous sacrifices so that Iraq and the Arab nation would remain intact. This is something which we will never forget. We will continue to cherish the values enshrined in these sacrifices, and so will future generations, because this will keep the torch of pan-Arabism, patriotism, magnanimity, and adherence to principles alive and glowing.

His excellency the president said: We seek to forget situations which displayed weakness and blameworthiness and the policies and behavior demonstrated in these situations. However, some of these situations we will not forget. The reference here is to the responsibility for some stands, policies, and acts resulting in the wasteful shedding of blood in the fighting that continued for 8 years. Consequently, two records are kept for the present and the future. The first record contains the good deeds; the second contains the bad deeds.

The president added: Thank God for the final outcome. Thank God the region has witnessed 1 year and 19 days of peace. Not only the Iraqi and Iranian peoples stand to benefit from peace, being directly concerned with the conflict and having been spared much bloodshed and devastation, no, the Arab nation also stands to benefit. This is because the Arab nation cherishes peace as a value and a principle and greatly appreciates the importance of peace; and this is dictated by the Arab nation's humanitarian perspective. Moreover, the world, with its responsible perspective toward and faith in security and stability, will also benefit from peace.

Air Force Commander on Warplane Manufacturing

JN2209122289 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1140 GMT 22 Sep 89

[By Faruq Shaukri]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 22 Sep (WAKH)—Thousands of Iraqis this morning laid wreaths at the Monument of the Unknown Soldier and the Martyrs Monument at the start of major national celebrations to commemorate the anniversary of the comprehensive Iraqi response to the Iranian aggression. [passage omitted]

The newspapers today cite Air Force Staff Major General Muzahim Sa'b Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, in his first interview with the national press since he recently took his post as saying: "The project to manufacture warplanes in Iraq has reached an advanced stage. We are in the final touches, and the project will come into being early next year."

It is known that Iraq had negotiated with France, the Soviet Union, and Britain to reach an agreement to build factories for producing warplanes and training planes in Iraq.

The Air Force and Air Defense commander asserted that Israeli threats will not frighten Iraq. He said: "We have the capability and the power for deterrence. This will make the Zionist entity think twice before carrying out any aggression, now or in the future."

He announced that the Iraqi Air Force now has twice the number of squadrons that fought the war 8 years ago. He said that the Iraqi Air Force is now advanced in a manner unmatched by many air forces in the world.

He emphasized that all this progress is attributed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who constantly followed up this subject. [passage omitted]

Further on Iraqi Warplanes

JN2509090689 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
22 Sep 89 p 8

[By Ra'd 'Abd-al-Jabbar]

[Excerpts] Staff Major General Muzahim Sa'b Hasan, commander of the Iraqi Air Force and Air Defense, has affirmed that our Air Force played a major and important role in achieving peace and victory over the enemy invaders under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, the builder of great Iraq's glory. This came during a news conference given by the Iraqi commander at the Air Force Headquarters on the anniversary of Iraq's retaliation to the aggression on 22 September 1980.

During the news conference, which was attended by representatives of local newspapers and magazines and INA, Hasan said that to glorify this great day it has been decided to celebrate Iraqi Air Force Day on 22 September every year because of the great heroism recorded by the heroic hawks in the glorious Saddam al-Qadisiyah

battle, including the first big aerial blow in retaliation for the rancorous Iranian aggression on our militant state. [passage omitted]

The commander of the Air Force and Air Defense affirmed that the next year will witness the manufacture and production of Iraqi warplanes. There are ambitious plans for military industrialization. The project to manufacture warplanes has advanced in great strides and is at an advanced stage with only the final touches to be made, he added.

On the level of cooperation between the Iraqi Air Force and the Arab brothers, the Iraqi commander said that there is strong cooperation with the Arab air forces, particularly in the Arab Cooperation Council states, in the field of armament in terms of bombs and missiles. He said that cooperation began a long time ago and that the Iraqi Air Force always works to continue and promote this cooperation to achieve Arab integration. He said Iraq never hesitated to provide any Arab country with experience and capabilities to strengthen and develop the Arab air force. [passage omitted]

With regard to the threats leveled by the Zionist entity against Iraq, the commander of the Air Force and Air Defense affirmed that these threats are not new and have been continuing for a long time. God willing, we have the capability and power of deterrence so the Zionist entity will think a thousand times before carrying out any aggression against Iraq, now or in the future.

At the end of the press conference, the Iraqi commander pledged to leader President Saddam Husayn that the heroic hawks will always be ready to make sacrifices and carry out their duties to safeguard great and lofty Iraq.

UK Parliamentary Delegation Leaves Baghdad

JN2209152189 Baghdad INA in English
1500 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 22, INA—The British Parliamentary delegation headed by Mr. Tony Marlow left Baghdad today at the end of a 4-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Marlow said the delegation had useful and constructive talks with a number of Iraqi officials to promote and develope bilateral relations.

He hailed Iraq's genuine wish to establish total and lasting peace in the region, and the need to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran dispute, pointing to the construction programs underway which reflect the real desire of Iraq for peace.

Mauritanian Minister, Delegation End Visit

RCC's Ibrahim Receives Ahmed

JN2309162189 Baghdad INA in English
1515 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 23, INA—Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], received today the Mauritanian information minister, Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed.

The Mauritanian minister conveyed during the audience a verbal message to President Saddam Husayn from the Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya dealing with bilateral relations and current developments in the region.

The Mauritanian official expressed his country's gratitude and appreciation over Iraq's national stances and keenness to shore up bilateral relations in all domains.

INA, AMP Accord Signed

JN2409132989 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1210 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 24, INA—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) and AGENCE MAURITANIENNE DE PRESS (AMP) signed today an agreement for bilateral cooperation.

The accord, which provided for exchanging news and press reportage, benefiting from the exchanges, preserving accuracy and sources, and covering events and activities was signed for Iraq by Mr 'Adnan al-Junburi, INA director general, and for the AMP by Director General Ibrahim Ould Abdalla.

The accord also provided for offering assistance to correspondents of both agencies and exchanging technical data.

Cultural Protocol Approved

JN2409180089 Baghdad INA in English
1520 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 24, INA—Iraqi Information and Culture Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim and his visiting Mauritanian counterpart Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed concluded today a protocol on bilateral cultural cooperation.

The protocol calls for exchange of T.V. and radio programmes, experts, information publications and visits of delegations as well as drawing up a plan for coordination between the two countries' news agencies in covering joint activities and providing technical facilities for that effect.

The protocol also provides for boosting cooperation in artistic and cinema fields and setting up cultural weeks and exhibitions in both countries.

Mr Jasim stressed Iraq's readiness to pursue its cultural and informtion cooperation with Mauritania.

Mauritanian Minister Leaves

JN2609091089 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0800 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—Mauritanian Information Minister Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed and

the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today at the end of a visit to Iraq. During the visit, Ahmed attended celebrations of the third international Babylon festival, which began here last Friday. [passage omitted]

Brazilian Culture Minister Arrives on Visit

Minister Attends Festival

JN2409115789 Baghdad INA in Arabic
2040 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Brazilian Culture Minister (Jose Aparecido de Oliveira) arrived in Baghdad tonight to attend the third international Babylon festival.

In a statement to INA, the Brazilian minister said: Our participation in the international Babylon festival reflects the strong and developed Iraqi-Brazilian ties. Participation here will give us the chance to meet with officials of the Ministry of Culture and Information to discuss prospects for bilateral cooperation in cultural and information fields.

Confers With Jasim

JN2409125489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim today met with Brazilian Culture Minister Jose Aparecido de Oliveira.

During the meeting, Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim reviewed with the visiting minister the construction effort being carried out by the glorious Iraqis in all spheres under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, which was attended by the under secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information and the Brazilian ambassador to Baghdad, they also discussed ways to enhance cultural and information cooperation between the culture ministries in the two countries.

Delivers Letter From Sarney

JN2509182289 Baghdad INA in English
1450 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 25, INA—Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], received in audience today Mr Jose Aparecido de Oliveira, minister of culture in the Federal Republic of Brazil.

During the audience, Mr Ibrahim received a letter addressed to President Saddam Husayn from Mr Jose Sarney, the president of Brazil.

Also during the audience, which was attended by the Brazilian ambassador to Iraq, bilateral cooperation was discussed and means of promoting it for the benefit of the two countries and peoples.

Departs Baghdad 26 Sep

JN2609091489 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0830 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—Brazilian Culture Minister Jose Aparecido de Oliveira left Baghdad today following a 3-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Kurdistan Legislative Council Holds Session

JN2209152089 Baghdad INA in English
1430 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Irbil, Sept. 22, INA—Under the patronage of President Saddam Husayn, the newly-elected Legislative Council of the Autonomy Rule of Kurdistan area started its first session here today.

President Saddam Husayn deputized Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, to inaugurate the council's opening session.

In an opening speech, Mr. Ibrahim conveyed to the council members President Husayn's confidence of their capability to shoulder the responsibilities entrusted to them in consecrating the process of autonomy rule and building the edifice of great Iraq.

He added that the council sessions are held in the shade of victory and peace and the drive led by President Husayn for promoting democratic life in Iraq and expanding the base of popular representation.

Mr. Ibrahim further said that projects on a permanent constitution for Iraq and expanding the multi-party system would be referred to the president in few days by the committees entrusted with their preparaiton.

He added that the council session coincides with Iraq's brave and historic decision to decisively reply on the Iranian aggression, a decision that came in expression of the Iraqi people will in defending the homeland.

Mr. Ibrahim said that our Kurdish people that left behind the state of concern and instability and believed that the path of autonomy rule was that of national unity, progress and dignity largely participated in the elections of the council. This was another occasion for showing their allegiance and faith in the course of the 17-30th July resolution, he said.

Peres Discusses Talks With Bush; Mubarak Plan

TA2609063589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by 'Oded Ben-'Ami in New York "after Peres' meeting with President Bush"—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, do you see a way for the United States to promote the political process after what you heard from President Bush?

[Peres] I found the President very interested and determined to promote peace. I believe he made it clear that he is a president who is friendly to Israel.

[Ben-'Ami] Were means of promoting the peace process also discussed?

[Peres] We know the two issues involved: the 10 points, which are not binding on Israel, and the composition of the delegation. The disagreements over these issues should be overcome.

[Ben-'Ami] Did you learn from him the administration's stand on Mubarak's proposal?

[Peres] No. I only learned that the attitude toward Mubarak is very positive, but I heard no definitive ruling on the points or on other issues. I was asked about various things. I made my comments.

[Ben-'Ami] Can you envision a way to overcome the current disagreements in the Cabinet on this issue?

[Peres] I believe that anyone who toys with the idea of a narrow-based government, whether this idea originates with the Likud or not, disregards the fact that he is accountable to another party. I believe that whoever is interested in preserving the Cabinet should help it make decisions. I believe that the lack of a decision would be the cause for a Cabinet breakup.

[Ben-'Ami] Minister Arens has said here in New York that suddenly the Cabinet is again speaking in two voices.

[Peres] I do not know why Minister Arens is sitting around here complaining all day long. If he has anything to say to me, he can give me a call and I will respond. I hear of news conferences. I did not come to the United States to fight or debate with Minister Arens. If he has remarks to make, he should be making them to me and not to the press.

Arens Says U.S. Shows Desire To Promote Peace

TA2609072589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens "in New York, after his meeting with President Bush," by Mikha Friedman in studio—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Shalom, Foreign Minister Arens.

[Arens] Shalom.

[Friedman] After the meeting you held last night with the U.S. President, do you find that George Bush is still extending unreserved support for the Israeli Cabinet peace initiative?

[Arens] I heard nothing that would indicate otherwise.

[Friedman] Did you hear him favorably mention Mubarak's initiative—his 10 points—at least in passing?

[Arens] I heard nothing about this either. We discussed the peace process, the current situation, and what can be done to promote the process. We will continue to discuss this issue when I meet with the secretary of state on Thursday. After that we will raise the issues in the tripartite meeting I had proposed to the secretary of state, which will also be attended by Dr 'Abd al-Majid. I am also scheduled to meet with President Mubarak—on Friday, I believe. He will meet with President Bush after this meeting. We can therefore view this as a series of meetings in which the peace process and the means for its promotion will be discussed.

[Friedman] Shim'on Peres met with President Bush several hours before you did and, according to reports we have, Bush told Peres that he is encouraged by the progress made in recent weeks in the wake of the plan presented by Mubarak, who is doing an important job. Did you hear anything concerning these attitudes or issues?

[Arens] No.

[Friedman] Secretary of State Baker briefed the media after Peres met Bush and said that the United States is committed to direct talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians. He also said Mubarak's plan is a potential way to achieve this goal. So even if you did not hear about it, the Americans are opting for the Egyptian plan.

[Arens] Look, I cannot respond to things I have not heard. I definitely see a U.S. desire to assist in promoting the peace process. There is also no doubt in my mind that they will act on their desire. I believe that they have quite a realistic attitude. I also believe that they understand the political reality in Israel.

[Friedman] You and Peres are both in New York. You both met with the U.S. President last night within the space of a few hours. Peres was first. Did he report anything to you or coordinate anything with you so that you would be better prepared and updated during this important meeting.

[Arens] Well, I did not hear from him. It is possible that you are mentioning norms which sound reasonable, but perhaps are not practiced.

[Friedman] Yes. How does this whole business work? Two of the most prominent ministers in the Israeli

Cabinet come, each with his own policy, wrestle publicly, and criticize each other openly. This does not look good, does it?

[Arens] I hope you do not believe that in my meeting with Bush I criticized another Israeli Cabinet minister. I hope Mr Peres did not either. If Mr Peres remained loyal to the Cabinet resolutions, its peace initiative, its guidelines, there should be no problem.

[Friedman] I am speaking of remarks you made before meeting with the U.S. President, in which you condemned Peres' recent moves or moves made by other Alignment ministers.

[Arens] I said that the Israeli Cabinet should speak in one voice. In my opinion, this is essential for the Cabinet to function and for the protection of Israel's interests.

[Friedman] Mr Arens, the Israeli Inner Cabinet is scheduled to convene in 2 weeks to discuss the situation following Mubarak's initiative. You will report on what you heard from Bush, while Peres will perhaps report other things. According to the reports, he heard additional things as well. How should the Cabinet refer to this double report and make a positive resolution?

[Arens] I believe that after all the data is presented to the Cabinet and the Inner Cabinet, resolutions will eventually be made. I hope that all of the Cabinet ministers accept them and act according to them.

[Friedman] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, thank you.

[Arens] Thank you.

Arens Stresses Mubarak's Plan No 'Alternative'

TA2609095889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Sep 89 pp 1, 10

[Excerpts] New York—Foreign Minister Moshe Arens appeared yesterday to close the door to any meeting with a Palestinian delegation to discuss President Mubarak's 10 points, stating that Israel will only talk to a Palestinian delegation after elections in the territories.

But Arens did not dismiss Mubarak's 10 points out of hand, arguing that seven of the points are simply elaborations of Israel's election proposal and the others are "irrelevant" at present. [passage omitted]

In comments to Israeli reporters yesterday morning before starting a day of meetings with the foreign ministers of France, Denmark, Ireland, the United Kingdom and West Germany which was to culminate in a meeting with President Bush during a gala reception for foreign ministers at the Metropolitan Museum in the evening, Arens seemed angry at Vice Premier Peres for spreading the notion in the U.S. of an Israeli split over the Mubarak plan, and visibly concerned about the support for the plan among opinion-makers in this country.

In his comments, Arens noted that seven of the 10 Egyptian points relate to elections in the territories, pointing out that Israel has advocated such elections for months. He said the other three points, relating to a permanent solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, are "irrelevant" at this point. He said efforts to shift the focus away from the Israeli four-point proposal to the Egyptian 10-point plan will simply "complicate" efforts to push forward the peace process.

Arens said there appears to be growing "confusion" exemplified by the TIMES editorial "that the Egyptian 10 points are somehow an alternative to our position." Arens said it was wrongheaded "to ask whether we support or oppose (the Egyptian plan). It is not an alternative. We have proposed democratic elections (in the territories). We are the only democratic society in the Middle East. We know how to (hold fair election-s)...(and) we don't have to prove to anyone that we can hold free elections."

Arens told the journalists that by pressing him on whether he will give a negative answer to Mubarak in talks here on Thursday, they were only contributing to the prevailing confusion.

Arens stressed that Israel will vigorously oppose attempts by any party to arrange an Israeli-PLO dialogue. Asked about the possibility of Israelis meeting with non-PLO Palestinians to discuss the 10 points, Arens responded, "We want to talk to the people elected in a democratic election.... There can be negotiations (with a Palestinian delegation) only after elections."

Asked if he is irritated that Bush was about to hold a special meeting with Peres, Arens replied, "There are no irritants in politics. They have a very good understanding in Washington of who won the last (Israeli) election, and who would win the next one." Asked if Peres's advocacy of the Mubarak plan in the U.S. over the past week has weakened the Israeli position, Arens replied, "There is damage but it is not irreparable if (Labour) stops (advocating the Mubarak plan) today. The question is, will they continue?" [passage omitted]

Mubarak Urged To Call Saddam-Shamir Summit

TA2509182089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has said that he was pleased to hear President Mubarak's remarks claiming that his Iraqi counterpart, Saddam Husayn, is willing to end the conflict with Israel. If indeed these remarks are true, said Netanyahu, I would suggest that Mubarak summon Saddam Husayn and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to Cairo for a meeting that could promote peace more than any other move.

Responding to Mubarak's statement that the Arab world wants peace with Israel, Netanyahu called on the Arab countries to change their habit and vote in the United Nations in favor of accepting Israel's credentials.

No Knesset Debate on Mubarak's 10-Point Plan

TA2509114689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] The Knesset this morning defeated two motions for the agenda on the peace process, following the deal worked out between Labor and Likud to put off any confrontations until the government can discuss the Mubarak plan; but despite the deal, tensions between the two major parties were evident. David Ze'ev reports:

It went almost totally according to the plan. Labor and Likud each dropped its motion for the agenda on the peace process. The two sides agreed that the moment of truth will come only once Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Vice Premier Shim'on Peres return from North America and the Inner Cabinet meets on the Egyptian plan.

Motions were raised by Yosi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement and Ge'ula Kohen of Tehiya. Both agreed on one point: Prime Minister Shamir should have known, from the time he presented his peace plan, what the results would be.

Sarid wanted to know what kind of Palestinians the government is looking for. Would it be the ones who did not identify with the PLO, with the intifadah [uprising], and would give up on Jerusalem from the outset? He had harsh words also for the Labor part of the government in particular, saying that the party is staying conveniently in the coalition, able to claim that the Likud is blocking it from moving forward with its ideas. For his part, Sarid said he might very well back the idea of a referendum as proposed by SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Minister Arye Der'i. He said the public is being led astray by not being told that, in fact, there can be no resolution to the conflict without the Palestinians realizing their political aspirations.

Ge'ula Kohen spoke with the clear backing of the hawkish wing of the Likud. She said she is glad that at least now, with Shamir's rejection of Mubarak's 10 points, the prime minister seems to have realized what the results of his peace initiative are. She said that never before in history have Jews acted in defense of the enemy during a time of war, like today.

Both the motions were defeated, as Minister Roni Milo, sticking mostly to the agreed-upon script, called for a Knesset session on the issue after the government discusses the Mubarak plan. And just about all, but not all, the members of the coalition voted against the motions.

Likud Rejects Proposed Referendum on Initiative

TA2509100489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Sources in the Prime Minister's Office yesterday discounted Minister Der'i's proposal to resort to a referendum on the question of Mubarak's initiative, asserting that it would be impractical.

The Likud faction in the Knesset issued a statement rejecting the interior minister's proposal. Likud explained the rejection by saying that "were a referendum held, the Alignment would not agree to reveal its true political stand by posing a question that relates explicitly to the establishment of a Palestinian state and to its support for such a state."

Labor Leaders Reportedly Knew of PLO Meeting

JN2509172589 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 24 Sep 89 pp 1, 17

[Text] Paris - AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM — Israeli sources here have revealed that Israeli Science Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who is currently visiting France, met secretly in Paris at the end of last week with ranking figures from the PLO leadership. One of those was PLO Paris representative Ibrahim al-Sus, who conveyed to him a special message from Yasir 'Arafat. Weizman responded positively to 'Arafat's message.

He said that he was interested in visiting Tunis and meeting Yasir 'Arafat to negotiate the Israeli-Palestinian peace with him. The political sources said that Weizman met in secret twice with Ibrahim al-Sus with the knowledge and agreement of both Labor Party leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin.

Peres had telephoned Weizman in Paris from Washington and told him that he would have no objection to his meeting with 'Arafat, although he preferred that the meeting be held in secret because of the huge disagreements in the Israeli Government between the Likud and Labor parties.

Continuous Contacts With U.S. on Anne Pollard

TA2509101689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Israel has long been conducting official contacts with the U.S. Administration regarding Anne Pollard. This was reported this morning by Minister Roni Milo, who was representing the government in the Knesset debate on Anne Pollard. The debate had been initiated by NRP [National Religious Party] Knesset member Yitzhaq Levi.

[Begin Milo recording] I would like to stress, and bring to the attention of this house in these days, the eve of the New Year, that out of humanitarian considerations, the Israeli Government has for a long time been conducting official contacts with the U.S. Administration on the problems, health condition, and situation of Anne Pollard. The Anne Pollard affair has a history in the U.S. courts, and I do not wish or find it necessary to go into details at this stage. But I wanted to say and emphasize that the government and official bodies are in continuous contact with the United States on this matter. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 25 September reports that "in its special session this morning, the Knesset endorsed the government's announcement, read by Minister Roni Milo, regarding Anne Pollard," adding that "Minister Milo pointed out that this is a painful human tragedy, but the Israeli Government has no legal or official standing in the case of a U.S. citizen convicted by an American court."]

Government Still Opposes U.S.-Saudi Arms Deal

TA2609054389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Israel has rejected a U.S. request not to oppose Washington's intention to complete a large arms deal with Saudi Arabia. The package includes the sale of 300 M-1 tanks. Sources in Jerusalem say Israel will continue to oppose weapon sales to countries which are still in a state of war with Israel. Jerusalem is also claiming there is no guarantee that the weapons will not eventually be used against Israel. The administration yesterday presented the arms sale to Congress.

Agreements With Egypt on Tabah Border Issues

TA2509071589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has reached a number of agreements with Egypt over issues of the Tabah border. Foreign Ministry Director General David Sultan [title as heard] said that in ongoing talks, the parties reached understandings on evacuating Israeli tourists in need of emergency medical treatment and allowing Israeli boats to enter waters around Coral Island.

Sultan told reporter Miriam Herschlag that four Israelis were detained for a few hours by the Egyptians on Saturday for fishing in Egyptian waters. He stressed it is illegal for Israelis to fish in Egyptian waters and that any boat entering this area must first obtain permission.

EC Foreign Ministers Plan To Visit Next Month

TA2509153489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, current chairman of the EC Foreign Ministers Council, will come to Israel next month with his Spanish and Irish counterparts to try to promote the peace process in the area. This was agreed in a meeting between Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his French counterpart held at UN headquarters in New York.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that in the meeting Minister Arens noted that Israel and the European countries disagree on the role the PLO should have in the process. Israel believes that the PLO is an obstacle on the road to implementing the peace initiative and holding elections in the territories. Minister Dumas made it clear that according to France, the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

Mr Arens praised France's initiative to bring about a cease-fire in Lebanon. According to him, our presence in southern Lebanon is aimed at protecting our border, and, if a sovereign government is formed in Lebanon, there will be no Israeli interest in remaining there.

Diplomatic Ties With Poland To Resume Soon

TA2509104589 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Sep 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Diplomatic relations between Israel and Poland will be resumed in the next few weeks, and there is hope that relations with the Soviet Union will be resumed within a year. This was said yesterday by Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav.

A similar picture emerges from reports received in Jerusalem from Re'uven Paltzur, head of the Israeli representation in Poland. Paltzur has reported that a few days ago, he held talks with Krzysztof Skubiszewski, Poland's new foreign minister [title as published], who told him that being in charge of Poland's foreign affairs, he will strive to achieve a normalization of relations with Israel. Elements in Jerusalem believe Foreign Minister Arens' meeting with the Polish foreign minister in New York this week will accelerate the process.

In a conversation with a MA'ARIV correspondent, the Foreign Ministry director general further said that the solution achieved recently on the issue of the Carmelite convent at the Auschwitz camp has removed an obstacle from the path of increasingly strengthened Israeli-Polish relations.

Merhav estimated that after relations with Poland are resumed, the process of establishing relations with East Bloc countries will be held in abeyance until the resumption of full diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, approximately within 1 year. "Diplomatic relations are the point where the development of normal relations between countries starts; they are not the climax," said Merhav.

Lavi Prototype Completes Successful Test Flight

TA2509182889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] The initial test flight of the third Lavi fighter plane prototype was successfully completed this morning by Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]. The aircraft is intended as a showcase for new avionics systems. Reporter Le'a Zinder has the story:

The aircraft that performed its first test flight today is in fact the third prototype of the Lavi. However, it was not intended to further the development of the aircraft. Rather, it's being used to demonstrate new avionic systems, particularly to potential buyers from abroad. Over the past 2 weeks, the airplane performed several trial runs on the tarmac to test the engine and other

systems. The IAI were able to overcome all the problems, and this morning the plane took off on its first test flight.

Sources at IAI said they were satisfied with the plane's performance. The flight began at 1151 this morning and ended just before 1300. The chief test pilot of IAI, Menahem Shmul, was in the cockpit.

Work on the third prototype began in November 1987, several months after the government decision to end the Lavi project. At that point, IAI decided to continue developing the sophisticated systems originally designed for the Lavi. They say this craft is the most convenient airborne platform for testing and demonstrating these technologies. The avionics systems may be integrated into existing fighter planes like the Mirage, Kfir, the F-15, and the Phantom.

Further on Violence, Injuries in Territories

IDF Reportedly Kills 1

TA2509100889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Sep 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] A Palestinian youth from Khan Yunus was shot and killed yesterday in a clash with troops, and two more Rafah residents were hacked to death by masked assailants.

In yesterday's clashes in the territories, 15 Palestinians were shot and wounded, according to Palestinian reports. Official military sources put the number at nine. [passage omitted]

The youth killed in Khan Yunus was identified as Bassam Faruq al-Jabari, 18. Two others were shot and wounded in the same clash with troops, according to Palestinian sources, who added that Bassam's brother, Bassim, 16, had been killed in similiar circumstances two months ago. The IDF is investigating the death. [passage omitted]

On Saturday night and yesterday, IDF troops raided homes in the town, beating inhabitants and arresting several people, Palestinian sources said. They added that the security forces seemed to be trying to put an end to the wave of intracommunal attacks in Rafah. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 25 September, in a report by Mikhal Qedem and Oren Kohen on page 6, adds that according to Arab sources, "yesterday, soldiers fired tear gas canisters into the Nabulus Ibn-Qutaybah schoolyard, where students were holding a demonstration. The sources claim that a number of children, who were asphyxiated as a result of gas inhalation, were transferred to nearby clinics for medical treatment."]

In scattered clashes in the Strip, 10 other Palestinians were shot and wounded, most of them lightly. Military sources confirmed seven wounded.

In the West Bank, a 17-year-old was shot by troops and seriously wounded in the chest, according to the al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus.

A 12-year-old from Barta'ah, near Janin, also was slightly wounded. Military sources confirmed the reports.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 25 September, in a report on page A8 by 'Ezra Yanuv, states: "The Nabulus military court yesterday sentenced Qabatiyah resident 'Ali 'Abdallah 'Asmawwi, 30, to 3 years in prison with an additional 3-year suspended sentence for participating in riots in January 1988, during which a local resident suspected of collaboration was hanged."]

IDF Captures 'Terrorists'

TA2509184589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Official military sources have reported capturing five terrorists who are residents of the Qalqilyah area. The five were captured during a clash between an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit and a terrorist squad last Thursday. Three of them had long been wanted for questioning by the security forces. They are charged with having perpetrated attacks against vehicles belonging to Israelis and Palestinians they suspected of collaboration.

One of the detainees is Faysal Shuraym from Qalqilyah, to whom many attacks in the region are attributed, including the hurling of Molotov cocktails at Israeli cars in Qalqilyah in February 1989. He also is linked to attacks against Palestinians whom he suspected of collaboration, and involvement in the abduction, interrogation, and killing of a Palestinian. On Friday the suspect led his investigators to a well in the Qalqilyah area, where the body of the victim was found.

Hospital Reopened in Gaza

TA2509201189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpts] A Rafah man was murdered today, while another suffered severe beatings by masked individuals. The two were suspected of assisting Israel. Another Rafah resident was seriously injured by army gunfire while trying to snatch a soldier's personal weapon.

There were two firebomb incidents in the Gaza Strip, and in another incident, a bottle of acid was hurled at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. [passage omitted]

An ophthalmological hospital was inaugurated in Gaza today. It was renovated and equipped with the latest in medical gear. Thus, Gazans will no longer require medical treatment at Israeli hospitals. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports:

[Begin videorecording] [Nahmias] The ceremony in which the ophthalmological hospital in Gaza was

reopened reminded many of the participants of a long-forgotten time, the days prior to the intifadah [uprising]. Mayors, heads of local and regional councils, heads of trade unions such as the bar association and the engineers union, senior Arab employees of the Civil Administration, as well as public and religious figures were all invited and indeed showed up. The head of the UN Relief and Works Administration also attended the ceremony.

Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, said that despite budget cuts, every effort is being made not to hurt educational and medical systems. Thus, in the past few months an effort to improve health services has been made. As part of this, an X-ray lab, a dialysis unit, and other facilities were opened.

Some 1.5 million shekels were invested in renovating and equipping the hospital. It now has a modern operating room and 36 beds, up from 21. One of the six Arab physicians on the staff is currently studying in Britain. With the reopening of the hospital, the Gazans' dependence on Israeli hospitals will end.

The pride and joy of all the new medical equipment is a laser unit worth $80,000 donated by a rich local. The person who has served as the director of the hospital for the past 3 years was grateful for the developments, but minced no words about his desire for more. [passage omitted]

The head of the Civil Administration said that this was Israel's limit.

[Ramot] Let me take this opportunity to call once again on international bodies to contribute and assist in the health area as well as in other areas in accordance with the many needs and requirements of Gaza Strip residents. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Arab Found Dead in Nabulus

TA2609074789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] The body of a 30-year-old Arab was found in the Nabulus cemetery this morning. He was probably murdered for having collaborated with the Israeli authorities.

Our correspondent reports that yesterday masked men kidnapped four local residents and took them to an unknown location. Army and police forces have started an investigation.

In the Jabal al-Mukabar neighborhood of East Jerusalem, dozens of female students rioted this morning. Students from the (Sawahrah) high school threw rocks and bottles and blocked nearby roads. Police and Border Police units dispersed the rioters and sent all the students home. The school teachers were summoned for questioning. The police intend to close the school for a prolonged period.

Civil Administration Not Pushing Political Moves

TA2109140289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Interview with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, by Arye Gus, "during a tour of Hebron this morning"—recorded]

[Text] [Gus] Mr Goren, heads of the Civil Administration have held meetings recently with notables in the territories, in which political issues were discussed. Is there a connection between these meetings and the delegations that have left the territories recently, some of which may already be in Egypt?

[Goren] Our discussions with the local population, those held by the heads of the Civil Administration and members of the defense establishment, are meant to maintain a link with them, to hear their questions, and to meet them as a ruling authority.

[Gus] And to push for a political move?

[Goren] We are not pushing for political moves. There is a declared initiative according to which we act.

[Gus] Mr Goren, those figures from the territories—the six from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza currently in Egypt—have in fact been holding political talks. Is this done with your knowledge and consent?

[Goren] I repeat: We are not involved in political issues. Those people ask for our permission to leave. Those whom the defense establishment allow to go do not relay any messages to or from us. We do not use them as middlemen. We do not need them for that. As I said before, we are holding meetings with them in the framework of the contacts we maintain with all of the population.

[Gus] What is your impression of the reports on those meetings, or the ones you have held? What could serve as a basis for a future arrangement: Israel's peace plan, or President Mubarak's 10-point plan?

[Goren] Without going into detail, I can only say that—and this is all I can say—the population is in grave distress. It yearns for a solution. It grasps any straw, hint, or chance of this matter moving for it to free itself, if only a little, from the pressure it is in.

[Gus] Do you view those delegations that went abroad as an attempt by the residents of the territories to hasten the process, to pressure elements on the outside?

[Goren] Naturally. This is definitely so. The population is very interested in finding some sort of solution.

Swedish King, Queen Conclude Week-Long Visit

JN2509180689 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Aqaba, 25 Sep (PETRA)—His Majesty King Carl Gustaf and Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden today concluded a 1-week official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at the invitation of Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur. The Swedish king and queen visited a number of historical and touristic sites in the kingdom and were acquainted with the progress achieved by Jordan in the various fields.

The Swedish monarch also inaugurated several medical and economic symposiums on cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Their majesties were given an official sendoff at al-'Aqabah airport by a delegation headed by Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur. [passage omitted]

Perpetrators of Anti-Israeli Acts Identified

JN2509162689 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Sep 89 p 20

[Text] Amman—AL-ITTIHAD yesterday obtained important information on the identity of the two men who crossed the armistice line between Jordan and the Israeli entity on 17 September, and who were arrested and jailed by the occupation authorities near Sedom.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that one of them—who was previously referred to as a teacher—is called Iyad Ahmad al-Majali and is a Jordanian national. The second man is called Salih Ibrahim al-Shaqarin and comes from the al-Tafilah area, 200 km south of the Jordanian capital. He also is a Jordanian national and serves in the Special Military Police.

Informed sources have said that the two men "belong to religious movements." However, the organization behind their action is not known.

In this regard, International Red Cross sources in Amman have stated that the person who carried out the Tiberias operation on 2 September that resulted in the deaths of two Zionist soldiers was Dirar 'Isa Abu-Bakr from the al-Shishan [Chechen] area [near al-Zarqa']. The Israeli occupation troops still hold the body of Martyr Dirar.

The martyr's house in al-Zarqa' was opened to the public to offer congratulations on his martyrdom.

Martyr Dirar 'Isa Abu-Bakr made out his will, addressed to the sons of "the nation and the beloved ones," 2 days before his martyrdom. In it, he said that he was going to fight the Jews "since there is no way for us except jihad." The martyr prayed to God to help the nation of Prophet Muhammad—may God's blessings be upon him—establish the wise caliphate state on earth which is based on the prophet's course and whose capital is holy Jerusalem in blessed Palestine.

U.S. Support for Israel in Face of Rigidity Hit

JN2409082889 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Sep 89 p 1, 17

[Editorial: "Further Israeli Rigidity and an Opportunity for Peace"]

[Text] While the Palestinians in particular and Arabs in general appear to be leaning toward peace, exhibiting tangible evidence of their great desire to break the prevailing deadlock in the region, Israel continues in its extremism and rejection of every peace initiative. Moreover, Israel has acted with such great rigidity, arrogance, and stubborness, its behavior has been unprecedented throughout the past 4 decades.

It seems that every time the Arab side presents an initiative which could open the way for the establishment of a just and comprehensive settlement, the rancorous Israeli extremists hasten to set up more obstacles and hindrances in an attempt, which is clear to everyone, to maintain the current situation, keep peace at a distance, and wreck any international effort contributing toward resolving the explosive situation in the region.

The latest statements by Yitzhaq Shamir and other extreme rightist Israeli leaders reveal their long-standing prevarications and expose the falseness of their projects, which aim only to deceive public opinion and gain time to continue the policies of oppressing the intifadah [uprising].

Undoubtedly, this stand, which is increasingly extreme and belligerent on the part of the Israeli leaders, could, in the final analysis, lead to the destruction of the entire prevailing peace trend of the Arabs and Palestinians. The trend toward peace also will be threatened if the United States continues to allow the rancorous Zionist extremists to become more extreme, while ignoring the fact that such a course could lead to highly dangerous repercussions and threaten the interests of all parties in the region.

In light of this, we hope the United States shows greater opposition to the desires of the Israeli extremists and their aims to destroy the appropriate political stand that would encourage tangible steps down the path of peace. Otherwise, the U.S. Administration could be held as responsible as the Israeli right in wasting another opportunity to establish a peaceful settlement—a settlement that corresponds with the interests of all sides and would open a new page in the life of the peoples of this region, who are yearning for justice, peace, progress, security, and stability.

Hizballah Figures Denounce Saudi Executions

NC2509095689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Hizballah's al-Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] branch held a memorial service at Imam 'Ali's mosque in Ba'labakk yesterday to mark the anniversary of the martyrdom of some Muslim strugglers at the hands of the Saudi regime. The service also was held to denounce the Saudi regime's execution of 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims a few days ago.

A number of speakers representing Hizballah cells in Kuwait, al-Hijaz, and Lebanon spoke at the ceremony. His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad 'Abdallah Mubarak delivered an address on behalf of the al-Hijaz 'ulema grouping. He said that the Sa'ud family's murky history is replete with crimes and aggression against Muslims and that the Mecca massacre was not the first crime it committed. The massacre was merely one episode in a series of crimes perpetrated against Muslims by this family. He added that the Saudi authorities are the dagger which stabs Muslims in the back with the aim of destroying every reform movement and smothering every voice that advocates liberty and dignity in the Islamic world. He concluded: We do not see any difference between the Zionists who occupy Jerusalem and the Saudi Jews who occupy the two holy mosques. He noted that al-Ka'bah appeals to the Muslims to deliver the shrine from them.

A Kuwaiti struggler delivered that branch's address, saying that the massacre had been planned by the powers of global arrogance in retaliation for the execution of the U.S. spy Higgins. He added that it is an ignoble attempt to implement a vicious scheme to link the fate of these martyrs to the fate of the U.S. hostages.

His Eminence Shaykh Zuhayr Kanj reviewed the suspect role of the Sa'ud family and its intimate links to the Americans. Commenting on the Lebanese situation, he said: We are wary of this Arab initiative, which has both security and political aspects. He announced that everyone supports the security aspect of this war, a war which has produced no clear-cut results. He added that the political aspect is the basic issue in the war against the Maronites and the pro-Zionists. It is a war against the suspect role of the Maronites as a spy den and a forward position for the West in the Middle East.

His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik delivered the Lebanese branch's address. He said: In Lebanon, we are facing a major battle. It is a conspiracy by the international crusade and political Maronism which want us to submit. We will not submit, and mediators will not do them any good. We support everything that guarantees the people's security, but we oppose all those who want to humiliate them. We will not accept any privileges in this country. We want the Lebanese people to have dignity, accept the rule of God, and reject injustice. All mediations carried out at the expense of this nation will fail, and we will resist them.

U.S. Interests Threatened

NC2609133089 Paris AFP in English 1306 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Beirut, Sept 26 (AFP)—Pro-Iranian militants from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait vowed Tuesday to strike back at Saudi, Kuwaiti and U.S. interests throughout the world to avenge the recent execution by Saudi Arabia of 16 Shiites.

Four members of Hizballah-Hijaz (Saudi Arabia) and Hizballah-Kuwait said at a press conference here that "Islamic combatants know how to avenge the massacre" of the 16 Kuwaitis, accused by Riyadh of responsibility for bomb attacks last July. The three blasts, which came during the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, killed one and injured 16.

"Our vengeance will target, among others, Saudi, Kuwaiti and American interests—as these governments arranged the crime—everywhere in the world," said one of the Hizballah spokesmen. The faces of all four speakers were masked by black scarves during the press conference, which took place in a hotel in Syrian-controlled West Beirut.

Most of those beheaded last Thursday were of Iranian origin. In pre-recorded statements on Saudi television, the 13 said they had received instructions and explosives from two members of the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait. Iranian officials quickly denied any role in the blasts and denounced the executions, warning that the Saudi ruling family would suffer the consequences.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on Monday declared that his government had not accused Iran or any other country of having masterminded the bombings.

The Hizballah speakers said the executions "had nothing to do with explosions or sabotage" and charged that the confessions of the Kuwaitis were secured through torture.

"The Kuwaiti authorities, which wanted to rid themselves of these active believers, called on the Saudi regime to commit this crime, which illustrates American policy toward Muslims," one of the group said.

Dozens of people have been arrested in Saudi Arabia over the last 18 months, notably engineers working for the oil company Aramco and four religious dignitaries, they said. The four were identified as Shaykhs Ja'far al-Mubarak, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Hubayl, 'Abdallah al-Nimr and 'Abd-al-Latif al-Nasir.

A Hizballah spokesman called on international humanitarian groups to investigate the arrests and said it held Riyadh responsible for "any attempt on their lives."

Hizballah-Hijaz has claimed responsibility for several anti-Saudi attacks, notably on a gas complex in Jubayl, eastern Saudi Arabia, in August 1987, which according to industrial sources left one dead.

Hizballah Leader Warns of U.S.-Arab Plot

NC2509144 89 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpts] o mark the week following Haj Isma'il Abu-Rida's martyrdom and the 40-day anniversary of the martyrom of Shaykh As'ad Burro, hero of the suicide operation, the Islamic resistance held a ceremony in al-Awza'i shrine yesterday. [passage omitted]

The ceremony ended with a speech by Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. In the speech, he asserted that there are continuous attempts to thwart the movement toward liberty and justice in Lebanon. He said that the latest sedition has sprung from a plan to again place Lebanon under Arab-U.S. control to maintain it as an arena for intelligence activities against the peoples of the region. His eminence added: We will have a security situation that will remain calm and stable for a long time, apart from a few disruptions. There are meetings and a serious dialogue. Taking everything into account, we believe that the political moves will prove fruitless.

Ayatollah Fadlallah revealed that there is a U.S.-Arab scheme to contain the Palestinian intifadah [uprising]. He noted that part of this scheme is Mubarak's initiative. This initiative is being bandied about in the Palestinian marketplace in order to end the intifadah which has placed the Zionist, Arab, and international players in a predicament. He noted that the Islamic resistance produced the intifadah in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He added that they are afraid that revolution will be contagious and spread to Jordan and into other areas in the region.

His eminence revealed that there are attempts to distort the image of the strugglers and mujahidin in the world by attributing to them every terrorist act that occurs abroad. He said that Muslim strugglers would never perpetrate any terrorist act because they regard the killing of civilians as unacceptable according to Islamic law.

He added: We are not against the American or European people, but we oppose the political, colonialist U.S. Adminstration.

Hizballah Official Rejects Arab Political Moves

NC2609092689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Brother Husayn Musawi [leader of Islamic Amal Movement and Hizballah figure] has announced that the Arab tripartite committee's political statement is of no benefit to the oppressed and the Muslims. He also said the committee's proposals would merely consolidate the Maronite regime and its privileges. Brother Musawi added: We see nothing good in the Arab proposals because the Arabs are interested only in consolidating the Maronite regime, Israel's security in our land, and Israel's continued aggression against us.

In an interview with our radio yesterday, Musawi said: We support the implementation of the Arab plan's security component because, as Muslims, we were not the party which started the artillery exchanges. As always, we continue to confront the serpent's head, the Zionist occupiers, and we see no purpose in carrying out artillery exchanges which cause further destruction and hardship for the citizens.

Brother Musawi added: We support the proposal that all free and honorable men in Lebanon and all those who have an interest in not allowing the establishment of a second Israel in Lebanon should come together and cooperate to topple this French-British-American regime which is controlled by political Maronism.

Explosion Reportedly Kills Fadlallah's Adviser

JN2509165089 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 24 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] In a statement to AL-BAYAN, [Lebanese] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has described the current stage in Lebanon as most dangerous. Berri pointed out that the complex Lebanese situation could engender many security incidents if the political file was not closed by achieving a reform document. Meanwhile, informed political sources have expressed fear that assassinations and explosions, intended to stall the efforts of the tripartite committee, may take place. Other sources have revealed that a booby-trapped car last week was targeted at the house of Hizballah spiritual leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. The explosion of the car killed Fadlallah's information adviser and injured his son.

Algerians Arrive; Security Committee To Meet

NC2509100089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Two Algerian officers arrived in Beirut at 1015 today. They will be assisting security committee chairman Lakhdar Ibrahimi in his task. The committee will meet at 1400 today to discuss the means of consolidating the cease-fire violated by the Syrians this morning when their artillery and tanks shelled Bayt Miri in central al-Matn.

Deputies To Meet in Saudi Arabia 30 Sep

NC2509171589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpts] At 1400 today, Lakhdar Ibrahimi chaired the third meeting of the security committee at its headquarters at the racecourse. The meeting, in which the two Algerian officers took part, ended at 1550. [passage omitted]

The conferees discussed the cease-fire violations which occurred this morning, as well as those which took place in central al-Matn while the committee was in session.

While Ibrahimi declined to comment, sources in the security committee said that, apart from the cease-fire violations, the participants in the meeting discussed ways of stabilizing the cease-fire and reopening the crossing points. However, no practical measures have been taken to this effect, they said. According to the sources, Ibrahimi refrained from announcing certain measures, preferring to wait until they are actually implemented. [passage omitted]

Ibrahimi later headed for West Beirut, where he met with former Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni at 1640. After the meeting, Ibrahimi confirmed that an agreement to invite the deputies to a meeting in Saudi Arabia on 30 September had been reached. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Issues Warning

NC2609070189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Hizballah's al-Hijaz branch has issued a statement warning Shiite deputies against going to Jeddah. This has caused some confusion among these deputies, prompting contacts between Speaker al-Husayni and Shiite leaders to discuss the issue.

PSP on Security Plan, Political Document

NC2509142789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Walid Junblatt today chaired the meeting of the political bureau of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], which discussed recent developments and issued a statement saying:

The political bureau expresses its satisfaction with the security measures taken over the past few days to bring about a cease-fire and reopen the airport and the crossing points. This, the bureau said, will allow the citizens to lead a normal life and will rescue them from the whirlpool of violence, blockades, and destructive shelling. The party has always wanted to preserve the security, safety, and future of the citizens. Hence, it views these security measures as a mere truce. The only permanent guarantee lies in a fundamental political solution which eliminates the causes of war and rebuilds Lebanon on justice, equality, democracy, and pan-Arabism.

The bureau studied ongoing preparations to discuss the political document proposed by the Arab tripartite committee. The statement said that apart from failing to guarantee that deputies should represent all Lebanese, the proposed document ignored the need to learn the views of all political powers representing the largest portion of the people. Hence it does not represent the desired solution and can in no way be taken as a basis for dialogue. Moreover, the proposed document falls short of realizing the ambitions of the people and fails to rise to the level of their sacrifices and struggles. Instead of rescuing Lebanon from the whirlpool of war, it opens the door to successive sectarian wars. [passage omitted]

Junblatt Contends Army Needs To Be Reduced

PM2509110689 Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish 17 Sep 89 p 15

[Interview with Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party Chairman Walid Junblatt by Juan Carlos Gumucio in Mukhtarah; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In Junblatt's opinion, the first step toward reconciliation entails a transformation of the Lebanese Army, which by virtue of the National Pact (the never written Lebanese Constitution which the French drafted for their former colony) must necessarily be controlled by the Maronites, like the presidency of the republic and most of the key posts.

But the question is: Who would control the new armed forces structure? Unless a substantial and, moreover, unlikely change occurs, the army will remain the praetorian guard of Maronite power—"a military dictatorship," Junblatt says.

[Gumucio] Is that to say the first thing that should be done is to reduce the army?

[Junblatt] Of course. Two or three brigades would be more than sufficient. We have a disproportionate armed force in the Christians' hands. Let us be realistic. We cannot fight against the Israeli Army, which is occupying Lebanese territory in the south. What we need to secure the Israeli Army's withdrawal is for the UN resolutions to be implemented. For the present, we need only two or three brigades of the Lebanese Army—an adequate force for security tasks to enforce the law.

[Gumucio] As we talk, the Arab League troika is discussing a peace formula for Lebanon in Saudi Arabia. Do you have any reason to feel optimistic?

[Junblatt] A cease-fire? OK, and then what? A cease-fire without a political solution is nothing; it is an absurdity. It means putting the clock back to last March. It makes no sense. If the cease-fire is part of the game, fine; we would accept it. But then what?

[Gumucio] But you would accept it?

[Junblatt] We do not wish to create more suffering for the civilian population. They have already suffered enough.

[Gumucio] Nevertheless, silencing the guns would not guarantee tangible political results.

[Junblatt] We will see whether the Arab countries can finally produce a serious formula for Lebanon.

[Gumucio] One does not detect much optimism in what you say.

[Junblatt] I am a skeptic by nature—not just in politics.

[Gumucio] You have often said that there will be no dialogue with 'Awn because he "has lost control." However, if Ja'ja' emerges as a possible interlocutor for the Christians, would you talk with the leader of the right-wing militias—the "Lebanese Forces"?

[Junblatt] First things first. What could result from those contacts? I do not know... Certainly, it must be borne in mind that Ja'ja' has a clear and well defined political stance. He has always said that he wants a federal system for Lebanon. Ja'ja' is very frank when he talks about his federation plan. Ja'ja' says: "If the Maronites are no longer going to be able to rule throughout Lebanon as they used to, then we will stay in our enclave with our system." He will stand firm on that.

[Gumucio] Every Lebanese leader backed by Syria, including yourself, maintains that 'Awn's days are numbered...

[Junblatt] 'Awn must go. Perhaps the Americans will back another Christian military man and tell 'Awn: "It is time for you to go..."

[Gumucio] How would it suit you? The way that possibility stands, anybody who succeeds 'Awn will certainly continue to press on with the campaign against the Syrians and their allies.

[Junblatt] Of course it would be a positive step, but eventually somebody must take charge of the army, take full control over the armed forces, and set about transforming and reducing them.

[Gumucio] But this is clearly unacceptable to many Christian military personnel and politicians, who are opposed to discussing political reforms.

[Junblatt] Of course. The Christians do not have the slightest desire to discuss a historic agreement. What might come about are some changes that limit the Christian regime's privileges, but nothing serious. Years—years and years—will pass, many more than the most moderate optimists believe.

[Gumucio] If all mediation efforts fail, is this the only possible outcome?

[Junblatt] Of course. Nothing is impossible in Lebanon, and we must prepare ourselves for any eventuality. Our enemy is considerable and is constantly receiving arms and aid from the Iraqis...

Syrian Units Pull Back; PSP Groups Clash

NC2509172489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] According to a security dispatch this evening, units of the Syrian forces have withdrawn from the contact lines toward the rear lines [not further specified]. The same report added that the Syrians have set up troop assembly points in West Beirut. These points were dismantled during the flareup.

In another development, heavy clashes involving the use of tanks, rockets, and heavy caliber machineguns broke out between Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] groups in the Ba'lshmayh and Bhamdun areas at 1430 today. PSP sources said that family feuds were responsible for the clashes.

Reports of Clashes in Bhamdun, Ba'lshmayh Denied

NC2609072889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Responding to allegations by the eastern area media concerning purported clashes in Bhamdun and Ba'lshmayh, a security source has affirmed that these reports are false and exist only in the minds and wishes of those who bear a grudge against the homeland and its citizens. The source added that this is an attempt to affect the progress which began after the claims for so-called liberation were aborted and the illusions of the owners of those claims collapsed. The source noted that the owners of those illusions are waiting for their turn to be decisively toppled.

Mountain Areas Come Under Mortar Fire

NC2509194289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] The areas of Kayfun, 'Aytat, and al-A'rufiyah came under mortar fire from positions of the al-Yarzah clique at approximately 2130 this evening. The acts of aggression began at 2000 when machinegun and rocket fire were directed at these areas.

The nationalist positions are still abiding by the cease-fire decision.

Faruq Al-Shar' Arrives in U.S. for UN Meetings

JN2609080689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in New York last night to head the Syrian Arab delegation to the 44th session of the UN General Assembly.

Italian Paper Interviews Defense Minister Talas

PM2509104889 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 17 Sep 89 pp 61-2

[Interview with Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas by Gianluigi Melega in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Introductory passage omitted] [Melega] General Talas, what worries you most at the moment?

[Talas] If we are talking about my job, the war in Lebanon. If we are talking about my heart, the fact that I have not seen my friend Gina Lollobrigida for over 3 years. [laughs]

[Melega] [laughs] So let us talk about your job.

[Talas] First, I would say that I am worried that many countries do not understand the real nature of the conflict in Lebanon—the fact that it is a conflict between a minority collaborating with Israel and receiving aid from Iraq on the one hand, and, on the other, the 70 percent of the Lebanese people who are helped by Syria.

[Melega] What do you believe the conflict is about?

[Talas] The fact that the minority wants to maintain unjustified privileges, denying the majority equal rights. Another thing that seems strange to us non-religious people is that in a state that calls itself democratic the top public posts are distributed according to religion—a Maronite president, a Shiite parliamentary speaker, and a Sunni prime minister. These distortions were introduced by the French and should have disappeared with the end of colonialism.

[Melega] What do you Syrians want?

[Talas] Bear in mind that we believe that the entire region should have its own political, historical, and cultural Arab unity, without sectarian religious divisions. As our slogan puts it: one nation, two states. But since this is not the case, at least we would like in Lebanon a president with a high national and political standing, who is not sectarian, who can represent the entire Lebanese people, and who has an awareness of the Arab nation. Someone with whom to negotiate relations between our two states.

[Melega] Would you accept him even if he were a Christian?

[Talas] Of course.

[Melega] Would you name me some names.

[Talas] No, not that. But I can tell you that in the past Sulayman Franjiyah, for instance, did have these qualities. And to some extent, even al-Jumayyil. But this 'Awn is merely a puppet, a tool of Israel's.

[Melega] In the quest for a solution what do you believe should be done with the 400,000-500,000 Palestinians now in Lebanon?

[Talas] The same as we do with the Palestinians in Syria: If they want to live in the state, they have the same rights and duties as the citizens of that state.

[Melega] But your assessment of 'Arafat is unfavorable...

[Talas] I believe that 'Arafat has always set his sights on conflict among the groups, among the various sects. In 1976 Syria suggested to the various sides in Lebanon that they find a negotiated solution and Franjiyah even announced a constitutional reform; but 'Arafat, the Muslims, the Druzes opposed this and started fighting among themselves, and, in these clashes, Israel saw an opportunity to intervene and therefore encouraged them. It was then that the Israelis started financing and training the Maronites.

[Melega] Why did you become involved in an ever growing war in Lebanon?

[Talas] We cannot allow others to become established in Lebanon. It is only 70 km from Damascus to Beirut as the crow flies. When the Israelis invaded Lebanon in 1972 they used the Palestinians' activities as a pretext, but their real target was the Syrian Army.

[Melega] Why do you believe the Iraqis are now helping 'Awn?

[Talas] Because they were previously paid by the CIA to wage war on Iran. Once that was over, to avoid losing the CIA financing, they had to find something that interested the Americans—Israel. But they could not do so openly: That is why they are helping 'Awn. This is my interpretation of the facts.

[Melega] Do you believe that one political solution of the Lebanese crisis could be a partitioning of Lebanon, with the al-Biqa' Valley and the north going to Syria, and Beirut and the south to the pro-Israeli Christians, or something of that kind?

[Talas] Absolutely not. We would not accept the partitioning of Lebanon at any price, under any circumstances.

[Melega] What do you think of the Hizballah and the fact that they and other groups on Lebanese territory controlled by the Syrians are holding hostages?

[Talas] The conduct of these groups sometimes creates problems. But President al-Asad has clearly told them that he has the last word in this part of the region and that as far as the hostages are concerned, this must stop. Syria will exert all its influence to ensure the release of those currently being held.

[Melega] Do you believe it would be useful for the pope to visit Lebanon?

[Talas] I have not discussed this matter with President al-Asad. My personal opinion is this: The pope is welcome in the Middle East, but before going to Beirut, let him come to Damascus. Only on this condition can his visit play an important role for the sake of peace in Lebanon.

National Progressive Front Discusses Lebanon

JN2409181289 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] held a meeting at 1800 today under Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and NPF vice chairman.

During the meeting the NPF reviewed all political activities made by Syria on Arab and international arenas. It discussed recent developments in Lebanon and the announcement by all Lebanese sides of their acceptance of the Arab tripartite committee's peace plan and political reform document.

The NPF Central Command saw in these developments signs indicating the possibility of achieving Lebanese national reconciliation, which is based on the reforms required in the political system in order to assert Lebanon's Arabism and guarantee the unity of its people and territory and equality among all its people and in a manner that will achieve security, peace, and stability for all of them—things which Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, endeavored to achieve.

The NPF Central Command also took note of the government's activities, particularly regarding the economic situation, and citizens' living conditions.

'Awn Reportedly To Block Arab Committee Moves

JN2609082289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Sep 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN says: The isolationists, who claim to represent the Maronite sect, which is in fact innocent of them, will continue to obstruct the political action of the Arab committee regarding holding a meeting for the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies to discuss political reforms. For 15 years, these isolationists have been rejecting any talk about reforms. In fact, 'Awn has repeatedly said that there will be no reforms before liberation. By liberation, he means the expulsion of the Lebanese people, the evacuation of the Syrian forces, and turning the fraternal country into an aggressive base used by Israel against Syria and the Arabs. Had they in fact been sincere to Lebanon, they would have responded to Syria's good efforts and appreciated Syria's great sacrifices for the sake of safeguarding Lebanon and its Arabism, and for preventing sectarian fighting among its sons.

Throughout 15 years, Syria has continued to encourage the Lebanese to hold dialogue, reject fighting, and achieve accord so that the solution would be a Lebanese one based on mutual conviction. Syria has repeatedly stressed that it asks only that the Lebanese be sincere to Lebanon and its distinguished cultural and Arab role.

All sides today are facing a difficult test. The nationalist forces have responded to Arab efforts. The other sides, however, should translate their agreement into facts that would reflect positively on Lebanon and the region.

TISHRIN on Israel's Rejection of Peace

JN2509062489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Sep 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Intifadah [uprising] is the Way to Liberation," TISHRIN says: Realities and developments affirm that the way to liberation, victory, and achievement of national Palestinian rights is to support the intifadah and provide the appropriate conditions for its continuation and escalation until it can defeat the Israeli plan and destroy the expansionist ambitions of the Zionist enemy leaders.

TISHRIN adds: Israel has never supported any peaceful approach with regard to the Palestine question. It views peace through entrenching its occupation of the Arab territory. On this basis, Israel rejected all international resolutions calling on it to end its occupation of the Arab territory and realize the Palestinian rights.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: For all this, the intifadah must be supported because it is the popular militant phenomenon that can impose the Palestinian identity, reject the capitulatory proposals, and adhere to the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. The intifadah can also impose the Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territory.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Soldiers 21 Sep

LD2209110689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 21, BAKHTAR—The days of March, April, and May were very hard days but epic-making. Defending the country, the people's interests, the safeguarding of the ten year gains of the revolution and the question of death and life for everybody and for our system as a whole were questionable. This was said by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, at a meeting addressing the soldiers of revolution.

He added that on such hard days the soldiers of revolution rushed to defend the independence, territorial integrity and saving the life of the people in Jalalabad city, the first place of the steadfastness and resistance of the people of Afghanistan. The politico-military situation of our country was really complicated in the past seven months. The enemy was trying to carry out the plan of occupying the cities and centres of the provinces with fierce military confrontation. Meanwhile, they had planned to close the highways aimed at creating economic pressure against our plan. The international patrons of warmongers by the elapse of every day promised to the extremists their success in a near future. At the same time, the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan were carrying out definite measures for reliability defending the country in accordance with the military-politico requirements of the country. After the return of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan to the Soviet Union a state of emergency was declared in the country aimed at preventing economic sabotage and terrorism and decisive defence of the independence, and territorial integrity of the country which was faced with danger from abroad in every moment.

Sorobi operative group, garrisons of Kabul, Qandahar and Mazar-e Sharif, Army Corps No. 5, a number of other military divisions were newly established. Balkh party detachment, detachment of the soldiers of revolution, party detachments in Jowzjan, Badakhshan and Baghlan, all of which were constituted from the members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA. All of these detachments achieved prideful duties during the past seven months.

President Najibullah indicated that today 65 percent of party members are engaged in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan. The PDPA became ready in its entirety for the country's armed defence. All members of the PDPA, trade unions, All-Afghanistan Women's Council, political allies and non-party patriots became prepared for defending the country against foreign aggressions.

The opposition should take a good lesson from the experience of the past seven months in the sense that the continuation of war in Afghanistan and stress on military pressure by the United States and Pakistan and some of their allies is futile and thus a political way of solution for Afghanistan's issue should be sought.

The seven-month defence of the country proved the politico-military strength of the country and gave good lessons for the country's future, for the future of the party and gatherance of other forces.

Recently, the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan participated in the 9th summit conference of the heads of states and governments of the nonaligned countries in Belgrade. In this conference, the participants became aware of the military-politico situation of Afghanistan and became informed of the new proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan. In aggregate, the exchange of views and the proposals set forth by the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan to the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] conference held in Belgrade as positive and friendly. [as received] The Afghan delegation met and exchanged views with the heads of over twenty NAM countries and made them aware of the peaceful proposals of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Representatives of about 100 countries of the world ratified the position of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan. Likewise, the resolution of the conference reaffirmed the path chosen by the people of Afghanistan, the independent determination of the people's fate, the present socioeconomic system of Afghanistan without interference from abroad and the need to pay respect to the national sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and the Islamic nonaligned status of Afghanistan. While hailing the signing of the Geneva accords, the resolution called on all signatories to abide by their obligations of the Geneva agreements.

Some points in connection with the issues in Afghanistan and the acceleration of looking for a political solution has been approved in the resolution. The active participation of the Republic of Afghanistan to the NAM summit conference elevated the prestige and credibility of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan. Even those countries which treated in the past with hesitation regarding the successes of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan ratified the position and the proposals of the republic for a political settlement.

Likewise, the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan after participation in Belgrade conference went to Romania for a working visit at the invitation of the president of Romania. During this meeting, the Romanian leadership was informed of the politico-military situation of the country and the violation of Geneva agreements by Pakistan. The Romanian side considered national reconciliation as a good basis for ensuring peace in the country. It also condemned interference into the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The Romanian leadership promised the expansion of diplomatic and economic relations with the Republic of Afghanistan in the near future.

The activities and sacrifices of the soldiers of revolution in defence of country and strengthening strongholds, defenders of Jalalabad, Khowst, Qandahar and other cities have been changed into a good example of patriotism in Afghanistan. I not only appreciate your activities from military point of view, but also from sociopolitical aspects as well.

You did not defend party goals, but national interests of country, life of people, territorial integrity and country's independence. You practically proved that party interests be sought in the framework of national interests because defence from national interests is a best criteria of patriotism, Najibullah stated.

Your tasks have not been ended, but you as the honest sons of the country struggle for the realization of national goals of the country. Thus you must not keep yourselves away, even a second, from serving people. Defence of highways, transportation of essential materials, to help families damaged by the extremists rocket attacks and strengthening the unity of party are important tasks before you.

The greatest factor of victories of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan in the national and international arenas in the [word indistinct] months is defence and resistance of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] armed forces. The resistance and defence of the Republic of Afghanistan is the result of unity of the PDPA members as well as support of the national reconciliation policy.

The president added that the enemy's networks are not only busy carrying out sabotage and destruction in the state organs but they have duty to weaken the unity among the ranks of the party as well. You as soldiers of revolution achieve the greatest tasks and you should strengthen unity of the party.

At present, he went on to say, at present according to the possibilities and positions developments are taking place in a number of countries. I mean that our party members should understand the incidents and changes which occur in the region and the world as lawful events. The mental approach of the individuals and personalities cannot hinder the lawful course of the issues even if they are powerful. [as received]

The realization of the national reconciliation policy and expansion of the process of starting talks and negotiations with the armed opposition forces for maintenance of [word indistinct] of war will remain as the main principle tasks of the RA state.

At the end of his speech the president added that in difficult stages of life of nations only those can be successful who defend and represent from the national and high interests of people as well as their country. He expressed confidence that doubtless the cause of the national reconciliation which is defender of the interests of the Afghans, will succeed.

Pakistani Party Delegation Visits Kabul

LD2609081189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 25, BAKHTAR— A Pakistani high-ranking delegation headed by Alia Imam, cultural advisor of Begum Nusrat Bhutto, president of the Pakistan People's Party "PPP", which had come to Kabul on Sept 24 at the invitation of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation of Afghanistan (PSFOA), met with Sarwar Yurish, chairman of the press department of the Presidency and Surkhabi, vice-chairman of the PSFOA today.

According to another report the Pakistani delegation had a meeting early in the day with [name indistinct] deputy foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Afghanistan in his office.

During the meeting views were exchanged on issues of mutual interest.

RSFSR Minister Visits, Holds Talks With Leaders

Meets With Baryalai

LD2209131289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 20, BAKHTAR—Mahmud Baryalai, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan [RAI], met in his office today with Yuriy Sergeyevich Sokhin, minister of land transport of the Soviet Union, and members of his delegation.

During the meeting the sides exchanged views on the process of works of the 8th sessions of the subcommission of the Afghan-Soviet Permanent Commission in the economic areas, aspects of the development of land transport in the RA, as well as attraction of Soviet assistance for the provision of fuel tankers and process of transportation of foodstuffs to the RA.

The inter-city transport, construction of workshops, provision of spare parts and accessories, expansion and reconstruction of airports, management in the works of ports and processes of embarkation and disembarkation of commodities and other related issues were also discussed by the sides.

According to another report, Sultan Husayn, planning minister of the RA, met in his office with Y.S. Sokhin during the day.

During the meeting while Koprovich, economic councillor of the Soviet Embassy to Kabul and Ivanov, secretary of the Afghan-Soviet Permanent Commission, were also present, matters of mutual interest were discussed.

It was decided in the meeting that documents of cooperation as between the planning, commerce and transport ministries and the Soviet side be concluded shortly.

Meets With Keshtmand

LD2309194589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Afghan Council of Ministers Executive Committee, met this afternoon with Sergeyevich Sukhin, minister of motor transport of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, who is in Kabul at the head of a delegation.

During the meeting Mahmud Barialay, first deputy prime minister; a number of ministers and officials of economic affairs; Semenovich Ozhegov, charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul; Romano Evanovich Katovich, trade representative of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan; and embassy staff and members of the delegation were present.

During this meeting, having expressed satisfaction and appreciation for the selfless assistance of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan, the Council of Ministers Executive Committee chairman drew the attention of the delegation to the handing over of new equipment needed by the transportation bodies and to the urgent technical assistance needed in this sphere.

In reply the RSFSR minister of transport expressed the Soviet readiness to hand over the equipment needed by the Republic of Afghanistan. Also, both sides exchanged views on issues relating to the improvement of transportation activities in Afghanistan.

Received by Najibullah 24 Sep

LD2409165689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met this morning at Gol Khana Presidential Palace with Sergeyevich Sukin, minister of motor transport of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] and his accompanying delegation.

A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reports that during the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Transport Khalilullah and Ozhegov, charge d'afffairs of the Soviet Union Embassy in Kabul, views were exchanged on the need for the development and expansion of cooperation between both countries in the field of transport, and on improving transportation in the Republic of Afghanistan.

Signs Protocols With Keshtmand

LD2409223289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee, participated this morning in a ceremony at the Council of Ministers Headquarters to sign protocols on the meeting of transportation affairs representatives of the permanent commission on Soviet-Afghan assistance.

The protocols were signed for Afghanistan by Transport Minister Khalilullah, Commerce Minister Burhan Ghiasi, and Planning Minister Sultan Husayn. Signing for the Soviet Union were Sergeyevich Sukin, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] minister of motor transport, and (Koriwich Roman Evansovich), Soviet trade representative to Afghanistan.

Deputy prime ministers, ministers, economic officials, the Soviet charge d'affaires, Soviet Embassy staff members, and Soviet transportation delegation members attended the ceremony.

These protocols envisage the handing over of vehicles and needed transportation equipment as well as repair work from the Soviet Union. The vehicles will enable transportation of basic necessities to Kabul and other provinces to increase.

During the ceremony, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand presented medals commemorating the 70th anniversary of the restoration of independence to members of the Soviet transportation delegation as a gesture of friendship. The medals were accepted with thanks. In his speech Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand thanked the Soviet Union for its financial and technical assistance.

The RSFSR motor transport minister expressed the Soviet side's readiness to cooperate to improve the transportation activities in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Seen Off by Transport Minister

LD2609075989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0530 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 25, BAKHTAR—Yu. Sukin, minister of automobile transport of the Russian Federation, who at the head of a USSR delegation had come to Kabul recently left for home today.

The Soviet delegation during it's stay in Kabul met with Najibullah, president of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] on Sept 24, during which they discussed matters related to transportational affairs.

Likewise Sukin had separate meeting with Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the RA's Council of Ministers, Mahmud Barialay, first deputy prime minister and Sarwar Mangal, deputy premier.

The sides, during the meeting, discussed issues regarding to the inter-city transport, construction of workshops, delivery of transportational vehicles to the RA, expansion and reconstruction of airports, management in the works of ports and processes of embarkation and disembarkation.

The delegation visited on Sept 21, 1989 different sections of the central workshop of the Armed Forces as well as different productive sections of the Jangalak interprise.

A protocol was signed between the said delegation and minister of transport of the RA on Sept 24. According to

which the Soviets will deliver new vehicles. By delivery such vehicle needs in the transportational field will be meet.

At the Kabul International Airport, the USSR delegation was seen off by Khalilullah, RA's transport minister, Burhan Ghiasi minister of commerce and USSR charge de affairs in the RA.

Mujadeddi Cited on Rebel Plans, Foreign Contacts

PM2209142489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Sep 89 p 8

[Interview with Sebghatullah Mujadeddi, "president of Muslim Afghanistan," by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan in Peshawar; date of interview not given]

[Excerpts] [Zaydan] Do you have any contacts with the eight-member Shiite alliance based in Iran? Do you wish to resume the talks with them regarding their joining the government?

[Mujadeddi] We will send a delegation to Iran soon to hold talks with them in that connection.

[Zaydan] What about the recent Iranian-Soviet rapprochement and its effect on Iran's policy toward the mujahidin and the Kabul regime?

[Mujadeddi] We heard from radio reports that Iran requested the mujahidin government to sit down with the Kabul government, but when we asked the Iranian Government about it, it denied it. If they did in fact make such statements, we categorically reject them.

[Zaydan] Do you support former King Zahir Shah's return to Afghanistan?

[Mujadeddi] He is entitled to return to the country like any other Afghan citizen, and no one is preventing it. It is up to the people and the influential figures. If they decide to remove Mujadeddi from the presidency, I would resign. I neither support nor reject the king's return as a leader, because that is up to the Afghan people and the influential figures; they have the right to choose whom they want. [passage omitted]

[Zaydan] At the Rawalpindi meeting—during the formation of the mujahidin government—you discussed the question of elections in Afghanistan. As you know, Hikmatyar has suspended his membership in the government because of the failure to hold elections. Gaylani's rejection of the government is also attributable to the same reason. Why did you not hold the elections?

[Mujadeddi] Hikmatyar and Gaylani demanded and insisted that elections be held. But holding the elections under such conditions, when people are armed, would lead to clashes and armed confrontations. Even when Afghanistan was under the king's rule and stable it could not escape confrontations among the people, but the government used to intervene to stop them. So what about under present conditions? [passage omitted]

[Zaydan] In a statement [Pakistani Chief of Army Staff] Aslam Beg called on the mujahidin to hold a direct dialogue with the ruling People's Party in Kabul as soon as Najib falls and leaves Afghanistan, together with some of his colleagues. What is your response to that statement?

[Mujadeddi] I tell you frankly that we are not controlled by anyone—not the United States, Pakistan, or the Arab world. We want to maintain our relations with all Muslims, Arabs, and Iran. This, because they backed us in the days of our predicament according to the principles of the Islamic shari'ah. As for a government trying to exert pressure on us, we categorically reject it. How can we sit down with the communists when Zahir Shah himself refused to sit down with them or to include them in any government under him. As for Beg's statement, it is his personal view. He is ill informed about the nature of the Afghan people and their thinking.

[Zaydan] The mujahidin have 2 months left, then deep winter will come to Afghanistan, thus preventing the mujahidin from launching their attacks on the regime. Have the mujahidin prepared a particular military plan for these 2 months?

[Mujadeddi] Of course we have a plan and we will step up our military operations. We hope to receive the aid and backing soon. Even in winter the mujahidin can still continue their jihad in the warm areas.

[Zaydan] It was announced recently that the United States will support the field commanders directly. What is your response?

[Mujadeddi] We rejected that plan, because it would make every military commander leader of his own region, thus turning Afghanistan into a sectarian state. The recent statements by the U.S. ambassador to the mujahidin were cordial and expressed continuing support for the mujahidin government. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Premier Opposes Role for Zahir Shah

BK2509093589 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Sep 89 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, Sep 12—The Afghan interim government Prime Minister Prof. Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, has said ex-King Zahir Shah and the Afghan communists were unacceptable to the mujahidin and thus can have no role in a future Afghanistan.

Addressing a press conference at the MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] offices in Peshawar Tuesday, he condemned "behind the scenes conspiracies" against the "jihad" [holy war] and the interim government and said efforts to bring back Zahir Shah would remain futile. Holding the former king responsible for all the misfortune which has befallen Afghanistan, Prof. Sayyaf claimed that he was a discredited man who can have no role in the country's future. He reiterated that mujahidin would not share power either with the ex-king or the Kabul regime.

Prof. Sayyaf felt the Islamic interim government of Afghanistan (IIGA) would remain intact and further consolidated in spite of inspired propaganda against it by the enemies of "jihad". Listing the IIGA achievements, he informed that health and education committees independently run by different resistance groups had all been absorbed in the respective ministries of the interim government. He said work was underway to put the military committees of various parties under IIGA control.

He also disclosed that IIGA would shortly send powerful delegations to Afghanistan to unify the mujahidin groups fighting in various battle zones. Moreover, he said an authoritative council had been formed to bring about understanding among the mujahidin leaders for holding "Islamic" elections to a representative shura [consultative council]. He also announced that the information ministry of IIGA would in future handle its activities and keep the media informed.

Prof. Sayyaf expressed the hope that Hezb-e Eslami chief Gulbuddin Hikmatyar would soon resume his functions as the foreign minister of IIGA and outstanding disputes among mujahidin would be resolved.

Prof. Sayyaf said the best way to restore peace in Afghanistan was to put pressure on the Soviet Union to stop helping Afghan communists. He once again called upon the members and supporters of the Kabul regime to surrender to the mujahidin and repent their crimes against the Afghan people before it is too late. In case they failed to do so, he said they would be eventually caught and presented before Islamic courts for dispensing justice.

He said the Afghans would never forget the help extended by Pakistan to them in their hour of trial and would try to repay it in future. He said an Islamic Afghanistan and "brotherly" Pakistan would have special ties. He told a questioner that IIGA was willing to have normal ties with the Soviet Union provided the latter sincerely accepted the principles of equality and stopped arming the Afghan communists.

India

External Affairs Minister Briefs Parliament

Discusses Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan

BK2209161489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Official and ministerial level consultations are scheduled to take place between India and Nepal in the next few weeks to restore their traditional bilateral ties. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K. Natwar Singh, while addressing a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of his ministry in New Delhi today. He indicated that it is for Nepal to choose whether it wishes to continue the special relationship established under the 1950 treaty of friendship or a normal relationship in matters of trade, transit facilities, citizenship rights, ownership of property, and employment and services.

Mr Natwar Singh said during the recent talks the Nepalese side has been told the relationship between the two countries is to be viewed in its totality. It is not possible to consider them in a piecemeal manner. He made it clear the question of citizenship right, trade, transit and security must be viewed as a totality. None of these items could be viewed in isolation.

Members of the committee expressed satisfaction at the initiative taken by the government for the summit-level meeting between the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and King Birendra of Nepal at Belgrade. Several members cautioned the government about the need to ensure that India's security interest receives paramount concern which is its due. It has to be ensured that foreign power inimical to India's interest should not be allowed to interfere in the process of restoring India-Nepal relations to their traditional level. Members congratulated the government for the considerable tolerance it had shown in not getting provoked to the statements and efforts made by certain elements in Nepal to internationalize the matter, which is essentially bilateral in nature.

In response to queries by members, Mr Natwar Singh explained that the India-Sri Lanka joint communique is an integral text and cannot be viewed in a piecemeal fashion. Each paragraph, he said, is linked to the next, which had been carefully negotiated by both the sides. He also said the joint communique does not in any way supersede the India-Sri lanka agreement. It remains very much in force and both governments are totally committed to the agreement. The joint communique, he said, merely highlights the understanding that has been arrived at to deal with, among others, the question of deinduction of Indian troops.

Responding to another query, the minister clarified that the proposed [friendship] treaty for which a draft has been sent by Sri Lanka does not in any way replace the India-Sri Lanka agreement, but it will merely supplement it. Mr Natwar Singh expressed the hope that the [peace] committee formed as a result of the joint communique will function smoothly and bring an end to violence in Sri Lanka.

Members praised the government for conducting negotiations with Colombo with forebearance and tolerance. They said India cannot be blind to the safety and security of Tamils in the island nation. Members also emphasized the imperative need to keep in view the central position of India's vital security interests in this region.

A resolution recently adopted by the Pakistan Senate on Siachen and Kashmir also figured at the consultative committee meeting. Members took strong objection to the resolution and said this not only violated the Simla Agreement, but is also against the accepted norms of

international law. They said India should strongly condemn such blatant interference in our internal affairs.

Further on Briefing

BK2309020889 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Official and ministerial level consultations are scheduled to take place between India and Nepal in the next few weeks to restore bilateral ties to the traditional level. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K. Natwar Singh, while addressing a meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee of his ministry in New Delhi today. [passage omitted]

Some members belonging to the constituencies bordering Nepal said people of Indian origin as well as those in the (Sarai) region are full of appreciation for the restraint observed by India. While reaffirming India's commitment not to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, several members expressed admiration for the forces in Nepal which are working to democratize the Nepalese society. Members called upon the government to ensure that the interests of the people of Indian origin and Indian citizens are taken into account and secured in the final agreement. This is necessary since India continues to provide special facilities to Nepalese citizens in this country. Most members agreed with the view that evasion of the 1950 treaty was not due to the result of any act of omission and commission of the Indian Government. They also agreed that there has been no delay on the part of India on the question of having negotiations with Nepal.

On Sri Lanka, members praised the government for conducting negotiations with Colombo with forbearance and tolerance. They said had India not shown patience and firm commitment for the process of mutual consultation, the joint communique of Monday last [18 September] could not have been achieved. The minister expressed the hope that it would be possible now to bring a degree of normalcy in bilateral relations and restore them to the traditional level of friendship. Members said India cannot be blind to the safety and security of Tamils in the island nation. Members also emphasized the imperative need to keep in view the central position of India's vital security interest in this region.

They recalled the dangerous situation which prevailed 2 years ago and the manner in which certain foreign powers sought to take advantage of the internal situation in Sri Lanka. They said India has (?longed) to strengthen Sri Lanka's territorial unity and integrity. [passage omitted]

Gandhi, Nepal King Discussed Ties in Belgrade

BK1809034689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] King Birendra of Nepal has said that his government will pay due attention to India-Nepal talks in their national interest. The talks are to continue at various levels. On his return to Kathmandu after attending NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit at Belgrade, King Birendra said he exchanged views with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in Belgrade in a cordial atmosphere covering all aspects of India-Nepal relations.

Nepal Spokesman Urges Resumption of Talks

BK2209040289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Nepal says it is looking forward to resuming detailed and direct negotiations with India soon in the light of the recent talks between King Birendra and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in Belgrade. An official spokesman said in Kathmandu yesterday that it should be possible now to conduct serious bilateral negotiations with India within a short span of time. He said we are willing and ready for fruitful negotiations at the earliest.

President Leaves for Visit to FRG, Seychelles

BK1709075689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, left New Delhi for Bonn this morning on an 8-day state visit to West Germany and Seychelles. He was seen off at the airport by the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; and his Cabinet colleagues. The president is accompanied by the minister of state for railways, Mr Madhavrao Scindia, and a team of senior officials. This is the first visit by a president of India to both the countries.

The president's program at Bonn includes his official talks with the West German president, Mr Weizsaecker, meetings with the federal chancellor, and other important dignitaries. On Friday [22 September], president will leave for Seychelles where he will hold official talks with President France Albert Rene. The president will leave for home on the 25th after a farewell ceremony at Mahe.

Returns From Foreign Visits

BK2509124989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] The president, Mr Venkataraman, returned to New Delhi this evening after an 8-day visit to the Federal Republic of Germany and Seychelles. He was received at the airport by the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; his Cabinet colleagues; and others.

Speaking to newsmen, the president described his visit as very useful. Mr Venkataraman said that he had fruitful discussions with the leaders of the Federal Republic of Germany. He said they have high regards for India's economic progress and consider India as an important country in South Asia. Mr Venkataraman said West Germany wants to have greater cooperation with India.

The president described his visit to Seychelles as a goodwill visit and said it is aimed at further strengthening the friendly relations between India and Seychelles.

Minister Calls PRC Trade Pact 'Breakthrough'

BK2209040889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] The commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh, has said that India's recent breakthrough in trade relations with China will improve the political climate and help in resolving the border dispute. In an exclusive interview with our correspondent, Akshay Raut, the minister said normalization of trade will increase people-to-people contact and bring in greater confidence for a political dialogue.

Talking about India's general approach with its neighbors, the minister said that while being generous, the country cannot afford to trade at a loss. He said export items have been identified and these will be promoted wherever possible. The minister disclosed that trade with China will be up to 250 crore rupees annually from the current 197 crores as indicated in the protocol.

Trade, Transit Protocol With Bangladesh Renewed

BK2209082089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] India and Bangladesh have agreed to renew the existing protocol on inland water transit and trade for 2 years. The existing protocol is due to expire on the 3d of next month. The protocol envisages uninterrupted movement of intercountry trade between the two countries. It also provides transit facilities for Indian vessels to the northeast. The protocol was signed in New Delhi today by Mr P.M. Abraham, secretary in the Ministry of Surface Transport, on behalf of India and Mr Nurul Momen Khan, secretary in the Ministry of Shipping, on behalf of Bangladesh.

Spokesman Criticizes Fiji's Draft Constitution

BK2109160489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] India today deplored that Fiji's constitutional inquiry and advisory committee has failed to remove discriminatory and reprobate provisions from the country's draft constitution that did not meet the aspirations of the people of Indian origin.

In a statement in New Delhi, an official spokesman said that reports from Fiji's capital, Suva, indicate that the committee had not addressed itself to the central issue of establishing constitutional provisions which are just, fair, equitable, and racially non-discriminatory.

The spokesman pointed out that India has been consistently raising its voice against the attempts to give a racial color to the Fiji government's policies since the 1987 military coup.

The spokesman said that it is our hope that the provisions which are unfair and discriminatory in the draft constitution will be taken out.

Iran

Visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Meets Leaders

Greeted by Besharati on Arrival

LD2309160189 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—Indian First Deputy Minister of External Affairs S.K. Singh arrived here today and was welcomed by his Iranian Counterpart 'Ali Mohammad Besharati at the airport.

During his three-day stay here Singh will discuss expansion of mutual ties with Iranian officials.

Meets Rafsanjani, Afghan Rebels

BK2609075589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Iran has sought India's cooperation in its reconstruction program. This was conveyed by the Iranian president, Mr Rafsanjani, to the foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, during a meeting in Tehran yesterday. Mr Rafsanjani expressed the hope that the Indo-Iranian joint commission, which is scheduled to meet next month, will help strengthen relations between the two countries. The Iranian president also extended to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, an invitation to visit Tehran.

Our Gulf correspondent, Jagmohan Mathur, reports that Mr Singh held discussions with Iran-based Afghan rebel groups during his 3-day stay. Leaders of these groups expressed the hope that India will help in the reconstruction of Afghanistan once peace is restored there.

Denies Discussing Arms Sales to Iran

LD2609095889 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 26, IRNA—The Indian Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh rejected allegations here Monday that he visited Tehran to sell Indian arms to Iran.

"It doesn't suit me to be an arms merchant," said Singh in a press conference at the end of his three-day official visit.

On Iran-India cooperation, Singh said "Indian Government is prepared to assist Tehran in its reconstruction plans."

He added that the revolutionary Government of Iran is now well established and consolidated adding that Iran's friends should help with postwar reconstruction.

On future Tehran-New Delhi cooperation, he said agriculture and industry are the main areas of cooperation.

Singh added that bilateral trade and economic cooperation will be formulated to fit Iran's five-year development plan.

Asked to comment on the outcome of his talks with the heads of the Iran-based Afghan mujahidin Eight-Party Alliance, he termed it as "positive."

As for the accusations that India supports the Kabul regime, he said "India has not supported any particular wing and that all previous Afghan governments have enjoyed India's support."

During his stay in Tehran the Indian official held talks with the president and ministers of foreign affairs and commerce and other officials.

The fifth session of Iran-India joint economic commission is to be held here next month after two years of disrruption. It will be held during the visit to Tehran of the Indian foreign minister. Positive steps have been taken by both sides in recent months to improve and expand bilateral ties.

Rafsanjani Meets With Palestinian Leaders 25 Sep

LD2509112689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, Shaykh Subhi Tufayli, Colonel Abu Musa, Ahmad Jibril, and Sayyed Hasan Nasrullah, who are in Tehran as members of a Lebanese-Palestinian delegation comprising nationalist and Islamic groups from Lebanon and Palestine, met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning.

During the meeting, which was also attended by the Foreign Ministry undersecretary for Arabian and African affairs and by the Iranian ambassador to Syria Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban in behalf of the high-ranking Lebanese-Palestinian delegation, congratulated Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his new responsibility. He said: We consider His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as the vice regent [vali-e amr] of all the world Muslims and we believe that all Muslims should obey him. He added: Today, Islamic Iran is a base for the world's Muslims. We consider ourselves to be a part of Islamic society.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban then expressed condolences on the martyrdom of the 16 Kuwaiti Muslims by the Saudi regime. He expressed hope that the martyrdom of those innocent pilgrims will bring more glory to the Muslims.

Finally, referring to the immortal words of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni: Israel must be destroyed, he expressed hope that the slogan will always be supported and enforced.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani then greeted the Muslim and combative Palestinian and Lebanese leaders. He said: As you stated, dealing with Islamic issues has constantly been one of the principles of the Islamic Republic. With regard to Palestine, we believe that nothing but the rule of the Palestinian people can finally solve the problems. Any Palestinian betraying this popular ideal will be answerable to the people. He added: Imperialism has now concentrated all of its efforts on Palestine and Lebanon.

Regarding Lebanon's future government, he said: The quick and viable solution—which is, in fact, the true wish of the people of Lebanon—is that the majority vote should be honored in Lebanon's future elections. He added: Resistance will definitely be fruitful. As ever, the Islamic Republic of Iran will stand alongside the Lebanese Muslim and combative forces and will consider nothing but the wishes of the majority of the people of Lebanon.

Stressing the importance of unity between all Lebanese and Palestinian Muslim and combative forces, inside and outside of Lebanon, he said: During this sensitive period, the fate of both Palestine and Lebanon is intertwined. A compromise by either party would be harmful to the other.

Finally, our country's president reiterated Iran's all-round support for the Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims and wished them success.

Military Buildup Said Needed To Pressure Iraq

LD2609085489 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 26, IRNA—An Iranian daily Tuesday recommended Iranian officials to reinforce the military buildup of the country as a good backing for the diplomatic negotiations and a means to foil enemy's schemes for renewed aggression.

"A military plan in the long run can be a practical backing for our rightful stands in the implementation of resolution 598, in accomplishing peace and in repelling aggression," said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in its editorial.

Commenting on Iraq's hindering of the peace talks and implementation of the Resolution 598, the daily added that no practical step has been taken after 14 months since Iran accepted the resolution in July'88.

The Iraqi regime needs the no-peace no-war state in order to "justify its huge arms purchases after the war" despite its being indebted dlrs. 80 million, it added.

"As soon as a durable peace is established in the region, the Iraqi people would no longer tolerate despotism and suppression of freedom of expression," said the English daily.

Saddam Husayn would continue his dictatorial policies in order to preserve his rule, the daily said, adding "this is something which will be possible in a no-war no peace situation."

The daily said that the implementation of the resolution would also prevent Iraq from "accomplishing its goals, from its becoming the gendarme of the region to its confrontation with the Islamic revolution's objectives in Lebanon and other points of crisis in the world."

With regards to these facts, the daily suggested that officials should itensify diplomatic efforts to implement the resolution.

"To strengthen our diplomacy in the negotiations, we have to determine its center of gravity and direction," the daily said, adding "we can exploit our negotiations diplomacy in eliminating factors blocking the implementation of the resolution."

The daily also stressed that a precise plan should be drawn up "to drive occupation forces of the enemy out of our Islamic homeland and implement it when the United Nations proves unable to enforce the Resolution 598."

Karrubi on Stalled Peace Talks, Saudi Executions

LD2509123389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] We begin the hour's news reports with a report sent by the Central News Unit's correspondent in Arak in connection with the Majlis speaker's trip to the central province:

[Correspondent] On the fourth day of Holy Defense Week, Majlis speaker Karrubi arrived in Arak this morning to meet the people and the families of the martyrs and to examine the problems and difficulties of the central province. He was met by the governor-general, the Friday imam, and central province officials.

After his arrival in Arak, Karrubi went to the martyrs cemetery where he prayed for the peace of their souls. He then met with various groups of people in one of the town's mosques and, in the course of remarks, he honored Holy Defense Week and praised the resistance of our country's heroic people during the 8-year war.

The Majlis speaker referred to imperialism and reaction's all-round support and assistance for Saddam for bringing down the Islamic revolution. He said: The world saw that, during the war, the most modern weapons and military material were put at Iraq's disposal. U.S. warships began moving toward the Persian Gulf. Iran's oil platforms and passenger aircraft came under attack. But our heroic people withstood all those difficulties and did not abandon their revolutionary principles and ideals.

Noting that although a year has passed since the acceptance of Resolution 598 the peace talks have not made significant progress, Karrubi said: The only way to establish peace is to fully implement Resolution 598 and the articles of the 1975 [Algiers] accord. He added: We seriously want peace, but at the same time, we will not allow even one inch of our soil to remain under enemy occupation. If the talks do not yield results, we will take back the occupied territories through blood and martyrdom.

The Majlis speaker also referred to the recent crime of the House of Sa'ud in executing 16 Kuwaiti Muslim revolutionaries on the baseless charge of planting bombs. He said: The new crime of Arabestan [Saudi Arabia] is a continuation of the crimes that regime committed when they killed the pilgrims to the House of God. In our opinion, the Hijaz regime, which is the gang leader for American Islam, wants to silence the voice of freedom and defense of the oppressed and of Muhammadan Islam, which arises in the House of God. Let them be sure, however, that the oppressed and revolutionary Muslims will give a suitable response to that crime.

Ending his remarks, Karrubi asked the Armed Forces and the people to strive for reinforcement of the country's defense foundation by maintaining combat readiness and by strengthening forces.

Further Reaction to Saudi Execution of Kuwaitis

Karrubi on Memorial Service for 'Martyrs'

LD2509111289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Mr Karrubi, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult and the person in charge of Iranian pilgrims, issued a message in connection with the martyrdom of 16 of the Kuwaiti pilgrims to the Holy House of God at the hands of the House of Sa'ud regime, stating: In honor of the pure blood of the 16 dear Kuwaiti martyrs, a splendid memorial service will be held at 1600 on Thursday, 28 September at the blessed resting place of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified.

The message refers to that regime's crimes in martyring hundreds of pilgrims to the House of God in the bloody Friday of Mecca incident, and says: The House of Sa'ud regime has once again soiled its hands with the blood of the pure children of Muhammadan Islam and the brave guardians of the pilgrimage of Abraham and martyred 16 followers of Abraham.

In the message the various strata of the people are invited to participate extensively in the memorial service for those worthy martyrs.

Memorial Ceremony Held in Qom

NC2509124089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] A memorial ceremony for the Kuwaiti pilgrims who were hanged by the Al-Sa'ud regime after being arrested on the imaginary charges of having planted bombs in holy Mecca during this year's hajj was held last night by the Kuwaiti Clergymen's Association at the Grand Mosque in Qom.

Representatives of the grand ayatollahs and scholars of the seminary, and Muslims, clergymen, and scholars of 32 Islamic countries who are residing in Qom, as well as various strata of Qom's Hezbollah ummah, attended the ceremony. After a special mourning ceremony, the statement of the Kuwaiti Clergymen's Association condemning this crime by the Al-Sa'ud regime was read.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, spoke during the ceremony. Condemning this crime, he described the savage martyrdom of the 16 Kuwaiti Muslims as an American-Saudi plan to distort the face of Iran's Islamic revolution and of the region's Muslims.

In relation with this, he stated: As the other crimes by the Al-Sa'ud regime against the Islamic revolution have uncovered the anti-Islamic and inhuman face of this regime, the martyrdom of 16 innocent Kuwaiti pilgrims will further reveal the true face of those who claim to support Islam and the holy shrines.

Saudis Said Behind Mecca Bombing

LD2509131189 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA—The morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Monday said the Saudi regime itself was behind the bomb explosions at this year's hajj rituals using the incident as a pretext to execute 16 innocent Kuwaiti hajj pilgrims.

The Saudi regime announced last Thursday that it had executed 16 Kuwaitis on charges of planting bombs in Mecca during the July hajj rituals which martyred one Pakistani pilgrim and wounded 16 others.

"Planting bombs at hajj rituals for any reason or incentive is strongly condemned and rejected. Therefore, the Saudis should be denounced for masterminding such a crime," said the editorial.

It described the charges brought against the 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims as unjustified.

The Saudi regime's distortion of the facts is clear to Muslim nations, it said adding that the Saudi rulers are known for telling lies and forging realities.

The daily said the executed Kuwaitis had held commemorative ceremonies in Mecca during hajj rituals on the occasion of the 40th day after the demise of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, "and this is very painful for Al-Sa'ud and their masters."

JOMHURI-YE stressed that "the Saudi regime has become more disgraceful than ever" in the world of Islam and should say what were its incentives and on whose orders it had carried out so many crimes and brutalities in Mecca? [question mark as received]

Executions Cover Up King Fahd Illness

LD2309152189 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in its editorial Saturday commented on the execution of sixteen Kuwaiti Muslims by the Saudi Government Thursday describing it as a scheme for deflecting world attention from the main problem facing the Saudi Government. It said the news was designed to overshadow the inconvenient feeling of the impending death of King Fahd of kidney cancer and the expected turmoil likely to accompany his death.

The daily said, "the bulk of anti-Shi'a literature printed in the world today is financed, as are anti-Shi'a political activities, by the Wahabis of Saudi Arabia. Saddam Husayn's eight years of aggressive war against Iran was also bankrolled by the Al-Sa'ud family as was Saudi airspace used by the Americans and their AWACS for collecting military intelligence put at the disposal of the Iraqis."

The editorial commented that the explosives which the Saudi Government alleges to have detonated in the circle of pilgrims near the Grand Mosque might as well have been a simple gas canister which accidentally blew out killing one pilgrim, and injuring 16. It said in relation with the incident that the Islamic Republic was "predictably pilloried."

It said that "the 'convicts' gave televised confessions before they met the executioner and, no surprise under such circumstance, 'confessed' that they were provided explosives and given the necessary training by two Iranian employees of the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait."

The daily said the incident was a scheme by the Saudi Government for branding Iran and noted that the Saudi Government did not allow the least amount of freedom for the mediamen to investigate the case. It said the group of sixteen who were executed "were held incommunicado and investigative journalism in the birthplace of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him] is confined to Radio Riyadh's after-the-fact recounting of tales..."

Kuwait's 'Silence' Criticized

LD2509163589 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Sept. 25, IRNA—The Persian daily KEYHAN said in a commentary Monday that the execution of 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims in Mecca by the Saudi regime Thursday is evidence that it does not qualify as superintendent of the holy shrines in Mecca and Al-Madinah. It said the Saudi regime extorted confessions from the group by applying medieval torture and that confessions under such pressure are not valid.

It said the Kuwaiti regime has recently adopted wiser policies in her foreign relations with positive impacts on

her relations with Iran, and noted that the Saudis hate to see improving relations and better understanding between Iran and her Persian Gulf neighbors.

KEYHAN said the Saudi Government published allegations about Iran having been behind the incident in Mecca for pitting Kuwait against Iran, but expressed doubt whether the Saudis might eventually benefit from such devices.

It noted, however, that Kuwait's silence in the face of Saudi provocations would only pave the way for more "crimes" by the Saudi Government.

Iranian Charge Views Relations With Kuwait

PM2509152689 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Aug 89 p 14

[Report on interview with Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Kuwait Javad Tork Abadi by unidentified KEYHAN reporter; date, place of interview not given]

[Text] Tork Abadi answered our reporter's first question on the restoration of relations between Iran and Kuwait and said: There was some movement toward the restoration of relations between the two countries at the end of last year. I arrived in Kuwait on 17 May 1989. During my time there I have been made welcome by the appropriate officials in that country.

Iran at that time had a problem which was called "Kuwaiti patrol boat" issue which occurred very quickly at the special time of the imam's death—may God expedite his passage to heaven. The boat and its personnel were handed over to the Kuwaiti authorities. This action by the Islamic Republic was taken as a sign of goodwill and a desire by Iran to expand relations with the Government of Kuwait. At present, relations between the two nations are developing rapidly and we predict that in the not-too-distant future these relations will enjoy new and positive developments. Also in the near future, after the necessary preparations, there will an ambassador to Kuwait from Tehran.

Tork Abadi added: During this time I saw that the Kuwaitis sent a high level delegation to the imam's funeral and, if God is willing, and with the cooperation of the Kuwaiti officials, there will be a new chapter in relations between the two nations, and we will have greater and useful cooperation with them.

Our reporter asked: Why do Iran and Kuwait want to expand their ties? The charge replied: The policy of the Islamic Republic's government, which stems from the Constitution, has at the top of its agenda the expansion of ties with all Muslim countries, especially its neighbors. It provides the necessary groundwork for bilateral ties with countries at the highest possible level.

Kuwait is both our neighbor and an Islamic state. Within this framework, it received special attention from us. On the other hand, we must keep in mind Kuwait's active participation in international organizations such as the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, OPEC, the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. Kuwait's membership in these bodies means that it has a special role.

Kuwait is also very active economically. Because our two countries are close to one another geographically, much economic activity could begin between the two nations. Apart from all this, Kuwait is keen to expand its ties with Iran because of what we can offer it.

With regard to the present level of relations between Iran and Kuwait, Tork Abadi said: The ties between the Islamic Republic and Kuwait have experienced many ups and downs since the start of the revolution. During this time much has happened. At one time the two nations exchanged ambassadors, and at other times, because of the special problems that arose, the level of relations and the level of diplomatic presentation in each other's capitals dropped.

What can be said now is that about a year ago Kuwait started to send new people to its embassy in Tehran, making this embassy active. At another juncture the Islamic Republic sent a charge d'affaires—that was some 3 months ago—raising the level of its diplomatic representation in Kuwait. The process of improvements in ties continued along the same path until now, when we are awaiting the arrival of our new ambassador at the embassy in Kuwait. Of course, this must be done with the proper preparations. Our belief is that Kuwait will do the same and will raise the level of its diplomatic representation. Under present circumstances, the two countries' embassies are active in each another's capitals, and whatever must be done for relations is being done. This means that the progress of diplomatic talks is going well.

Our reporter asked: What was the reason for the change in Kuwait toward wanting better relations with Iran?

Tork Abadi replied: In brief, the situation that existed before this was against the real wishes of both countries. With the changes that came about in the region following Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 and the detente in the area, there was a feeling that Kuwait wanted to improve its ties.

KEYHAN asked: What is Kuwait's position with regard to Resolution 598?

Tork Abadi said: The Government of Kuwait, at the highest level, wants to see the full implementation of the resolution. They stress at all times that the resolution and all its clauses must be carried out in full. So it can be assumed that they feel that the process of the resolution and its implementation is very sensitive and important for them and for the whole region.

Our reporter asked: With regard to Kuwait's contradictory positions at Arab heads of state conferences,

including that in Casablanca, with the claim for supporting Resolution 598, what actions has that government taken in support of the resolution?

The Iranian charge d'affaires in Kuwait said: It is normal for a general trend to be set at international conferences and for the majority to follow that line. At an international level, when the Kuwaitis announce their official position immediately following such meetings, on an indivividual basis, it reflects a special view. This is why we must consider Kuwait's individual actions with regard to the implementation of Resolution 598. It is felt that Kuwait will start its activities in this regard in the future. This is what can be predicted about the future. The general situation in the region and Kuwait's efforts to keep the present peace as well as that country's participation in the international arena in all fields sum up Kuwait's actions. Consequently, the situation that exists shows that Kuwait can take an active part with regard to Resolution 598 because the conditions for it exist.

Tork Abadi was then asked: What are the border disputes between Iraq and Kuwait? Kuwait showed total support for Iraq from the beginning of the war. What are your views on relations between those two countries?

He said: Relations between Kuwait and Iraq have always had special complexities. What is certain is that Iraq's expansionist tendencies caused the present border disputes between the two countries to reach their present level. Several rounds of talks between the two countries and a trip to Iraq by the Kuwaiti crown prince, which was specially organized to end the border dispute, have so far been left fruitless.

Such actions are not surprising, coming from an expansionist regime such as Iraq's, but it is up to others to decide what the best course of action would be to safeguard their interests.

Of course, in the past Kuwaiti propaganda as well as their positions in the international arena reflected support for Iraq and there was large financial support as well. But what has happened now, which we can easily identify, is that all that has stopped.

He was asked: So far the Kuwaiti Government has shown that it is not a neutral country and has had varied activities, such as supporting the Iraqi regime and inviting aggressive powers to have a military presence in the Persian Gulf. Can Kuwaiti officials' statements be trusted?

The Iranian charge said: Some of the policies taken in this region, including those that were just mentioned, proved to be failures. Each of those incidents clearly showed their detrimental effect on the region's security and stability. What we are looking at now is action for the future. What the Kuwaiti Government will do in the future with regard to the issues you mentioned will be what we are looking for. What you can see from the words and actions and the rapid improvement of ties is that Kuwaiti officials are taking major steps to improve the past record. [passage indistinct]

The statements issued during the war included that issued at the end of the Muscat summit, which had a more positive stance than the others issued by this council. Also, the issues that were approved at the end of the recent GCC meeting in Bahrain reflected a wish by all the countries of the region to see stability and useful cooperation between the countries in this region, which can only be achieved if there is stability.

I can say that we have a positive view of the clauses mentioned wth regard to the situation in the Persian Gulf at the GCC. Because of this feeling, the background, and bearing in mind the vast capabilities that exist, one can predict economic cooperation with the countries of the region within the GCC. We should be able to see broader ties in the economic field among these countries in the near future.

The Islamic Republic of Iran can be an excellent supplier of goods for these countries and can provide many of the things these countries need. At the same time, it can import from these countries many of the things that it needs. This shows that in the economic field there is a bright and positive outlook for the future cooperation and that we could have good economic ties with the regional nations.

On the political level, if we look at our political relations with the GCC countries we see that we have always had an ambassador to the United Arab Emerates [UAE]. For a little less time that that, the Iranian ambassador has been in Qatar and for about a year we have had ambassadors to Muscat and Oman as well. So there is a chance that relations with other countries will also increase to this level.

This situation shows that the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to relations with other countries in the area is that such ties must be at a high level. On the other hand, we see similar actions by other countries to expand and improve ties with Iran. Continued talks and contacts between officials from Iran, Oman, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and even Kuwait show that relations between countries in this group have special importance and receive special attention from officials of the Islamic Republic.

Yazdi Not Ruling Out Pardon For UK 'Spy'

LD2509185489 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA—Mrs. Lili Cooper, a relative of the jailed British spy Roger Cooper, met with head of the judicial branch Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi here today and thanked him for having facilitated her meeting with Cooper.

During the meeting Ayatollah Yazdi stressed that Cooper's case is unrelated to political disputes between Iran

and Britain, or to the case of Iranian national Kurosh Fuladi. Fuladi was recently released from the British jails, where he was tortured brutally. He served a 10-year prison term on unproven charges of bomb planting.

Ayatollah Yazdi also refuted rumors that Roger Cooper has been condemned to death. He said Cooper has been sentenced to a prison term which he is now serving.

He did not rule out the likelihood of Cooper's pardon by the leader of the Islamic revolution. "As a human being I hope that Cooper would be pardoned by Islam," he said.

No court verdict in the Islamic Republic of Iran is revocable and no power except that of the leadership of the Islamic revolution may repeal a court's ruling, Ayatollah Yazdi told Mrs. Cooper.

Mrs. Cooper arrived here last week to meet with Roger Cooper who was arrested and tried on charges of espionage activities in 1985 to which he voluntarily confessed.

Romanian Presidential Envoy Makes 2-Day Visit

Meets With Rafsanjani

LD2009214989 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 20 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received a message from his Romanian counterpart Nicolae Ceausescu. The message was submitted by Romanian presidential envoy Ion Stoian here today.

The Romanian envoy called for further promotion of the two sides' cooperation in political, cultural, and especially technical, scientific and economic fields.

President Rafsanjani, expressing satisfaction with Iran-Romania relations, said "we are willing to maintain cooperation with our friendly country to our mutual interest." President Rafsanjani also extended an invitation to his Romanian counterpart to visit Tehran.

Departs 22 Sep

LD2209164789 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—The Romanian president's special envoy returned home Friday after a two-day stay here during which he submitted a message from President Nicolae Ceausescu to his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Stoian, a substitute member of the Romanian Communist Party Politburo and head of the Parliamentary Foreign Relations Committee, also met with Deputy Foreign Minister for Europe and America Mahmud Vaezi.

Romanian Trade Minister Visits for Trade Talks

Meets Agriculture, Commerce Ministers

LD2409065889 Tehran IRNA in English 0649 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 24, IRNA—The visiting Romanian minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation in a meeting with the Iranian Minister of Agriculture Issa Kalantari here Saturday evening made proposals for agricultural cooperation with Iran.

Ungur, who arrived here Saturday morning at the head of an economic delegation to visit the ongoing 15th Tehran International Trade Fair, described bilateral relations as good.

Kalantari welcomed the Romanian proposals and expressed satisfaction with bilateral cooperation in forestry and foodstuff industry.

He also expressed the hope that Iran, in addition to exporting oil to Romania, will boost export of non-oil goods such as farm products and that bilateral relations will grow further.

Meanwhile the Romanian minister held first round of talks with Commerce Minister Abd al-Hoseyn Vahaji Saturday night and reviewed potentials for expansion of bilateral economic and industrial cooperation.

Discusses Selling Training Aircraft

LD2409165989 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—Romania is ready to increase its oil imports from Iran, transfer technological know-how for oil and chemical industries and sell training aircraft to the Islamic Republic, the visiting Romanian foreign trade minister announced here Sunday [24 September].

In a meeting with vice president and head of the plan and budget organization Masoud Roghani Zanjani, Ioan Ungur expressed hope that the imminent visit to Tehran of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu would serve to expand Tehran-Bucharest ties.

Zanjani expressed hope that once Iran's five year development plan was approved the two countries could establish long-term cooperation in various fields.

The Romanian minister, heading a delegation, arrived here Saturday.

Received by Central Bank Chief

LD2509172789 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA—Tehran-Bucharest economic and banking ties were discussed in a meeting between Iran's Central Bank Governor Mohammad

Huseyn Adeli and visiting Romanian Minister of Foreign Trade Ioan Ungur here today.

The two sides expressed interest in further expansion of Iran-Romanian relations.

The Romanian minister announced his country's readiness and willingness to cooperate with Iran in its economic postwar reconstruction.

The Romanian official arrived here at the head of a delegation three days ago.

Bulgarian Trade Minister Begins Visit

Met by Oil Minister

LD1809183889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Bulgarian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Lukyanov arrived in Tehran at noon today heading a delegation and was met by our Oil Minister Aqazadeh. The Bulgarian foreign economic relations minister this afternoon, in his meeting with Oil Minister Aqazadeh, while saying that his country desires to expand bilateral economic, commercial and technical cooperation, called for a review of experts and the finalization of the talks on the sale of Iran's natural gas to Bulgaria.

Our country's oil minister too, declaring that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to sell natural gas to Bulgaria, welcomed this suggestion and it was decided that the experts of the two countries should look into the details of this matter and that the final decision in this connection be assessed in the next round of talks.

Meets Roads, Agriculture Ministers

LD1909115289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Andrey Lukanov was received by Roads and Transport Minister Seyyed Kya in the ministry building this morning. The two sides reviewed the possibilities of cooperation in road, rail, and air transportation and the ports. They expressed hope that technology exchanges and transportation and training issues will be expanded.

The Bulgarian minister also met with Agriculture Minister Kalantari this morning. During the meeting he conveyed the Bulgarian Government's willingness to cooperate in 5-year plan projects. The two sides also stressed the importance of further expanding mutual ties.

Meets With Armed Forces Logistics Head

LD2009093889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] Bulgarian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Lukanov met this afternoon with Mr Torkan, minister of defense and armed forces logistics of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI].

The Central News Unit reports that in the meeting Mr Torkan pointed to the relations between the IRI and Bulgaria and to their bilateral cooperation over the past years. He further stressed expansion in the field of mutual cooperation, while considering the continuation of such cooperation useful and fruitful for both countries.

Mr Lukanov then stressed the expansion of relations in various fields, while expressing his country's readiness for expansion of the area of cooperations.

Meets With Rafsanjani

NC2109150889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] Our President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr Lukanov, Bulgarian minister of foreign economic relations and member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Politburo, last night.

During this meeting, which was also attended by our Petroleum Minister Mr Gholamreza Aqazadeh, the two countries emphasized their wish to expand relations in all fields.

At the meeting, the Bulgarian minister, speaking on behalf of Bulgarian State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov, congratulated Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his election as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and conveyed Mr Zhivkov's most sincere wishes to the Iranian nation in its aims of achieving the objectives of the Islamic revolution and fulfilling the ideals of Imam Khomeyni. He also invited our president to visit Bulgaria, and Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani accepted the invitation.

Mr Lukanov also briefed our president on the situation of the Bulgarian Muslims, and asked the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a strong country in the world of Islam and as Bulgaria's friend, for the necessary cooperation in paying attention to the Bulgarian Muslims' problems.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his gratitude for the affectionate message by the Bulgarian leader, and referred to Bulgaria's friendly stands. He also expressed the desire for the expansion of bilateral relations. Referring to the Islamic countries' attention to the situation of the Bulgarian Muslims, he said he hoped this problem would be overcome as a result of Bulgaria's sagacity and goodwill.

Meets Press on Outcome of Talks

NC2109152289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] Mr Andrey Lukanov, the Bulgarian minister of foreign economic relations, has stated that the results of the economic and commercial transactions between Iran and Bulgaria show that the barter system is to the benefit of both countries at this stage and that bigger steps can be taken to expand relations.

Speaking at a news conference yesterday, he discussed Iranian-Bulgarian economic relations and said: Trade relations between the two countries have expanded greatly, and extensive efforts are underway to consolidate these relations.

He added that both countries have expressed their wish to review and to expand economic, commercial, scientific, and cultural relations on the basis of long-term agreements.

Referring to the spectacular growth in trade between the two countries after the Islamic revolution, the Bulgarian minister said that trade increased to $460 million in 1982, and that this level was also maintained after that. He recalled that agreements have been signed between the Saipa Company and a Bulgarian company for the export of 10,000 Renault cars to Bulgaria within the next 5 years. He also said that another agreement had been signed between a Bulgarian company and the Iran Khodrow Company, on the basis of which the Iranian company will export minibuses to Bulgaria in return for industrial machinery.

Lukanov said: We have expressed our interest in signing a long-term agreement for the purchase of gas from Iran, and committees of experts have also been formed in order to clarify the framework of this agreement.

He added that Bulgaria wishes to invest jointly in the petrochemical industry and steps in this direction will be in the interests of both countries.

Bulgaria To Import Iranian Gas

LD2109211489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] At the end of the talks held between Lukanov and his accompanying delegation and our country's officials, it was announced that Iran and Bulgaria have reached agreement on the export of 1 billion cubic meters of Iranian gas to Bulgaria.

Lukanov, before leaving Tehran today, described the results of his talks with our country's officials as highly productive and positive, and said: We would like to expand the two countries' relations within the framework of bilateral economic ties, and in our talks with the Islamic Republic's ministers of heavy industries and petroleum we achieved fruitful results. He remarked on Bulgaria's desire to purchase cars, minibuses, and ambulances from Iran, and said: We are very earnest in our purchase of nonoil goods from Iran, and are prepared to cooperate with Iran in industrial fields.

Our country's Minister of Petroleum Aqazadeh said: Bulgaria wishes to purchase gas from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and in talks with Lukanov, the export of 1 billion cubic meters of gas sold at international prices to Bulgaria was agreed upon.

Regarding the date of exporting gas to Bulgaria, he said: The draft for the export of gas to Bulgaria will be drawn up during a visit by that country's experts to Iran, which is to take place on 15 November 1989 of this year. We have already announced our readiness to export gas to Bulgaria via Soviet territory.

Velayati Arrives in New York for UN Assembly

LD2609073389 Tehran IRNA in English 0729 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 26, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in New York at the head of a high-ranking political delegation Tuesday morning to participate at the 44th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Velayati is to address the General Assembly next Friday.

Accompanying Velayati was the newly-appointed Iran's permanent representative to the UN Kamal Kharrazi.

Kharrazi is to submit his credentials to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar later this week.

Al-Shariqah Envoy Delivers Message to Rafsanjani

LD2509184689 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25 IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today received a written message from ruler of Al-Shariqah Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad. The message was hand-delivered by Shaykh Faysal ibn Khalid al-Qasmi, envoy of Al-Shariqah's ruler.

President Rafsanjani adverting [as received] to the importance of expansion of relations between Iran and Persian Gulf states, placed emphasis on the need for preserving security and stability of the region with the cooperation of the Persian Gulf states.

The visiting official also presented a report on the latest developments in the region as well as suggestions for further strengthening Iran-Al-Shariqah relations.

Finance Minister To Chair Group of 24 Session

LD2509082489 Tehran IRNA in English 0743 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Washington, Sept. 25, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran will chair the next session of the Group of 24, announced Iran's Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh here Sunday.

The Iranian minister currently here to attend the joint annual session of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) and also the Group of 24 which embodies developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Iran is currently the vice-chairman of the group which met before the imminent joint session of the IMF-WB and exchanged views on economic problems of the member countries.

According to Nurbakhsh the session discussed the debt crisis of the developing countries, their demand for greater share in the IMF and easing of trade restrictiions imposed on them by industrial states. The restrictions, he said, have led to fall in volume of trade of these countries.

He said that the group believed that increase in interest rate in 80s on loans granted to developing countries by industrial states, caused by inflation in industrial countries, halted growth in developing countries. He added that the members were of the opinion that the debts must be reduced.

Nurbakhsh heading a delegation left Tehran for Washington last Wednesday to attend the IMF-WB session and the ministerial session of the Group 24.

Oil Minister Interviewed Prior to OPEC Session

LD2309103389 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh arrived in Geneva Saturday morning to participate in the session of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) Monitoring Committee to open today.

The ministerial session of the committee of which Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela are members is to assess oil market developments in the past six months.

High in the agenda of the session are oil demand and supply in the last quarter of the current year. The eight ministers are also expected to exchange views on the OPEC long-term strategy.

Commenting on the OPEC long-term strategy in an interview before departure, Aqazadeh said "it will be useful and beneficial for all OPEC members if the strategy is properly assessed."

"OPEC is determined to adopt two long-term strategies up to 1995 and 2000," he told IRNA, adding "the issue is under serious assessment by the organisation with the supervision of OPEC secretary general."

According to Aqazadeh the main issue in the agenda of the future OPEC summit is adoption of this program, which he said is expected to enjoy enough support for approval in the summit.

He explained that several approaches to the strategy are under study, one of which specifies that oil prices should be based on 18 dollars per barrel provided that it would be flexible vis-a-vis world inflation. This, he said, will result in an increase in prices and production.

The other approach, he added, defines that the prices should be fixed at 18 dollars per barrel while at the same time world inflation and economic growth should be taken into consideration. This will bring about rapid price increases but the growth of production will be slowed down, he stressed.

The third option calls for fixing the prices at 18 dollars per barrel for the next ten years, he said adding that one of these approaches will be adopted.

Asked to comment on Iran's volume of oil production, he described the average production during the past several months as "very good."

The Islamic Republic of Iran is currently exporting 2 million barrels of oil per day, the highest in post-revolution period, he added. He stressed that Iran has always abided by quotas set by OPEC.

Aqazadeh called on all OPEC members to be more cooperative to guarantee the oil market stability.

Further on the decision adopted in the 85th OPEC session, he expressed satisfaction with the agreement which set prices at 18 dollars per barrel and production ceiling at 19.5 BPD.

"The agreement was good, logical and economical, but it did not work out very well due to violations of certain OPEC members—Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates," he concluded.

Petroleum Minister on Lifting of Fuel Restrictions

NC2309084489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Interview with Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh by correspondent Shaykh Hasani in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Hasani] Mr Aqazadeh, can you please tell us what measures have been taken to provide fuel for the people in winter and whether the restrictions on kerosene will continue?

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the resumption of operations at the Abadan refinery this year and the functioning of all the country's refineries at present, there has been an increase in production. Our goal at the beginning of the year was to supply in the first 6 months of the year winter fuel reserves to provinces such as Azerbayjan, Hamadan, and Bakhtaran where the weather is coldest and which have transport problems in winter. [passage omitted]

This goal has been met and our refineries are functioning very well. If no unforeseen circumstances arise, the conditions for supplying fuel to people will, God willing, be much better than in the past. However, there is another problem that affects fuel supply, and that is the problem of transportation and delivery. [passage omitted]

For example, drivers do not want to go to Baluchestan va Sistan Province because of damage to their vehicles, charges for conveyance, and other such problems.

[Hasani] What is your program for all products?

[Aqazadeh] As regards gas oil, we have no problems at all. In fact, we may be able to lift all restrictions. Whatever we do, we should not have any limits this winter on domestic consumption. [passage omitted]

As for kerosene, it is possible that we will implement a program to declare it unrestricted next year. However, I would like to explain that if there is a problem in any city, it will be because of the transport problem and not because of inadequate reserves. [passage omitted]

Need to Avoid Foreign Assistance Stressed

NC2509140989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0451 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Excerpts] The reconstruction movement, or better yet the jihad for reconstruction and construction, began immediately and comprehensively following the declaration of the cease-fire in the imposed war. Reconstruction became synonymous with extinguishing the flames of war. However, construction—as one of the holy ideals of the Islamic revolution—began with the victory in the revolution.

Undoubtedly, one of the Iraqi regime's objectives in fomenting the war, part of a general plan compiled by world arrogance, was to slow or stop the construction movement and to prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran from being seen by the world as the model of a successful Islamic society. Generally speaking, recent world political history shows that world arrogance reacts to popular revolutions by imposing economic embargos, launching direct or indirect military aggression, and exerting political pressures to create problems for the leaders of the revolutions. Such problems lead to dissatisfaction in the new nations and make Third World nations pessimistic about revolutions and their defense. These circumstances cause a revolution to lose popular support and, ultimately, to fail.

Even though these methods were used on a wide scale against Iran's Islamic revolution, world arrogance failed. The Iranian Muslims, under the aegis of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, realized that the problems did not stem from the nature of the revolution, but rather from colonialist policies. [passage omitted]

Now, in view of damage from the war and the slowing of construction during the past few years, world arrogance is trying—with the help of world propaganda—to inculcate the idea that reconstructing damages from the war, making economic progress, and solving problems cannot be achieved without foreign assistance, and that Iran needs to request this assistance.

This is yet another phase of the imposed war's scenario. We see the intention to create a situation that causes the Islamic Republic of Iran to extend a hand for help to world powers and to retreat from the Islamic revolution's ideals and objectives.

As the last decade's confrontation with Ba'thist military aggression and pressure from world powers was a revolutionary and Islamic movement, so now will the people's participation in the jihad for reconstruction and construction undoubtedly be a revolutionary act that will please God. [passage omitted]

Continued Military, Diplomatic Vigilance Needed

NC2309104389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1605 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Unattributed commentary from the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] One of the important achievements of the Islamic Republic during the 8-year-long imposed war was the progress it was able to make toward formulating a military strategy and improving its military knowledge and technology. The Islamic Republic is now living through a time of calm, improving its relations with foreign countries, and adopting long-term economic objectives for the country's reconstruction, industrial development, and the establishment of social justice. Despite these favorable international and regional conditions, a strong military and defense capability remains necessary to achieve these objectives and programs. A strong military and defense will not only protect the continuation of the current calm and security, but will also eliminate the possibility of further aggression against Iran and help secure the national economic and political objectives and revolutionary objectives and ideals.

With its Islamic-revolutionary identity and its political-economic character which refuses to compromise with other world political systems, the Islamic Republic will always be the target of the Islamic revolution's enemies. As long as these foreign threats to Iran remain, we cannot rely on the success of economic programs in the country, especially if these programs and economic development are aimed at achieving independence and social justice. Therefore, it is only by relying on a strong defense that we can prevent the threats to the security of the system and the Islamic Revolution from being realized.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic, as the heart of the Islamic revolution and the home of Islamic and popular movements against world arrogance, cannot subjugate its general strategy to domestic and economic objectives and ignore or stay silent about the revival of Islam and the threats by the forces of oppression. [passage omitted]

The 8 years of the war and resistance of the Muslim Iranian people under conditions of arms shortages and economic and military embargoes showed that the popular and mobilization forces are the most important pillar on which the country's military strategy can be based. [passage omitted]

Even though the Iran-Iraq military war has ended and it has been a long time since the roar of guns, missiles, and deadly chemical bombs were heard on the borders of the two countries, we can still hear the greedy voices of [Iraqi President] Saddam and the Saddamists and the hostility of the Americans on the world political scene and in affairs such as the Salman Rushdie incident.

This real and serious threat dictates that the Islamic Republic and its statesmen attach the same importance to development and progress in the field of arms and the strengthening of the country's military structure as they do to progress in the field of economy and welfare in the program for the country's development and reconstruction so that under the aegis of the spectacular military strength of the Islamic Republic we can achieve our domestic economic-political objectives and realize the objectives of the Islamic Revolution. The more we add to the country's military strength and invest in the country's strong military, the more positive and tangible impact this will have on Iran's political and economic relations with foreign countries.

We invite you to listen to the views of Mr Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, on the Islamic Republic's defense strategy:

[Begin Reza'i recording] Military strategy, which encompasses political, economic, and military considerations, is formulated to strengthen our military capability so that we can implement this strategy to ensure our independence and territorial integrity. Our national security actually depends on a correct strategy which should be applied at the right time and in the right way.

Our strategy has several special features, the first of which is that we should anticipate a possible aggression and not put our weapons away. We should always anticipate aggression. In other words, we should always have our finger on the trigger. Of course, we should always anticipate aggression in the political and economic fields, too, because an exemplary society can only be created by anticipating political and cultural aggression. It would be very naive for us to think that we should stop anticipating aggression in all fields. However, in the military field in particular we should always anticipate aggression.

The second special feature is the popular nature of our defense strategy because defense and military strategy is the strategy of armed combat, and the strategy should be formulated in such a way as to enable us to achieve the mobilization of all strata and the participation of all people in self-defense. Thus, the popular nature of the country's military strategy must be carefully considered.

The third special feature is the defense of Islamic nations and the Islamic ummah by Islamic Iran. In the world in which we live, we will be unable to stand on our own two feet if we do not establish defense links with the rest of the Muslims, even if our relations with foreign countries are good. Previous regimes in our country proved this point. Despite great dependence on and many links with the world, they were unable to stand on their own feet. Our country's political-strategic and political-geographic characteristics, our revolution, our people, and the regional situation all demand that we link the defense of our Islamic Iran with the defense of the Islamic ummah. In other words, we should defend them when necessary and they should defend us when necessary.

These are the most significant aspects that exist within the framework of our country's revolutionary and Islamic policies. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the world is moving toward negotiations and diplomacy in settling military confrontations and rivalries. The international scene and the rapid pace of political developments dictate that countries play a more serious and active role on this scene to safeguard their positions and their power. The greater a country's diplomatic presence, the more likely it is to achieve its national and idealistic objectives. World powers manifest this extensive diplomatic presence in the form of intervention in the affairs of other countries in a bid to achieve domination and more economic-military benefits.

As far as Iran's foreign policy, which works within the framework of defending the revolution's ideals and achievements and the grandeur of its system, diplomatic activity and active participation on the world scene is, first and foremost, manifested in defending the rights of the oppressed and the deprived and in strengthening the bases of the revolution and its system.

"Weekly Report" interviewed our Foreign Minister Dr Velayati and asked him for his opinion on the basic objectives of the Islamic Republic's defense strategy. Mr Velayati replied: The defense structure includes the political, cultural, ideological, and military structures, and if all these move in parallel, we will be successful in our strategic objectives in our foreign policy. He added:

[Begin Velayati recording] The strategic objectives of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy are first of all the preservation of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the home of Islam and the Islamic Revolution in the current era, and second the expansion of Islam and of the strength of the Muslims throughout the world and defending the ideals of Islam and the benefits of the Muslims and of the oppressed who should be protected by Islamic governments in every era. In order to achieve these, we should pay serious attention to what I said at the beginning of my remarks.

Of course, we must use existing and legitimate tools in the political and international fields in moving in this direction. Increased diplomatic activity with other countries in bilateral relations, an increased presence at

international forums, and increased efforts and activities in propaganda and enlightening public opinion around the world are things we must do. The more we increase our political activities in the world, the more we will benefit.

Meanwhile, we have priorities in our foreign policy. These priorities should be observed and they have a serious and direct impact on our defense situation. Among these priorities is the improvement of relations with our neighbors within the framework of our principles. The world today is divided into economic-political and economic-political-military blocs. The Islamic Republic of Iran, too, can have links and rapprochement with countries with which it has common interests. For example, relations between Iran and Syria are close and we have common interests in our foreign policy, on the international scene, and in the region. Therefore, the strength of these two countries can be placed next to each other, and this combination will definitely be more effective than if either country stood alone. In other words, there is a strength in unity which is definitely not there in discord. We should use these possibilities to defend the Islamic Republic. [end recording]

In other words, diplomacy should be used as a tool that serves the Islamic system and revolution and be used to promote the special capabilities of the Islamic Republic in the world vis-a-vis the diplomacy of the superpowers and Western hegemonists. As a rule, this diplomacy cannot move in a direction that does not conform with its nature and its objectives and that denies its national and idealistic principles and values. Therefore, the diplomacy used by the system and the Islamic Revolution should rely first and foremost on the Islamic Republic's potential and strengths. Our presence on the world scene without a popular and revolutionary support will only lead to retreat and concessions.

Military Equipment Displayed at 22 Sep Parade

LD2209132189 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—Model units of the Armed Forces paraded at the shrine of Imam Khomeyni in Behesht-e Zahra cemetery Friday [22 September] to mark the first day of the sacred defence week (Sept. 22-28) and pay tribute to their beloved imam.

Units from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), Islamic Revolutionary Committee, judicial police, gendarmerie and police marched past a special stand where President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other ranking officials were standing.

Military hardware and equipment seized from Iraqi troops during the war, including tanks, self-propelled artillery pieces, and multilauncher missiles were displayed during the parade.

Also on display were "Tondar-68" ballistic missiles, Scud-B and Frog ground-to-ground missiles, SAM-2 surface-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft guns and speedboats.

The Air Force, too, put on display a variety of weapons and equipment used by fighter bombers and air defence units such as Rapier and Sky Guard radar-controlled systems, Phoenix, Sparrow and Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, conventional and laser-guided bombs weighing up to 4,400 pounds.

Some 55 Air Force jet fighters and transport planes in a beautifully-shaped group flew past the cemetery and some helicopters showered flowers on the imam's shrine and the parading units.

Before the parade began, President Rafsanjani delivered a speech to multitudes of people present in the cemetery to watch the ceremony and to say Friday prayers held there on the occasion of the sacred defence week.

Two jet fighters refueling from a tanker plane flew in the sky over the cemetery, and airborne paratroopers in a successful free fall alighted in front of the stand.

Present at the ceremony were the ministers of interior, defence and culture and Islamic guidance, military and IRGC commanders, and foreign military attaches in Tehran.

Clandestine Views Opposition to Rafsanjani

LD2509195189 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Dear listeners—the struggle for power between the various factions within the ruling administration is entering a new stage. The high-ranking ruling clergymen, and those formerly close to Khomeyni, too, have begun to raise their opposition banner these days and seriously oppose the methods of the leader-president camp aimed at gaining absolute power.

The sermons of Musavi-Ardabili in the Friday prayer ceremonies in Tehran are one of the most blatant reflections of these struggles. Musavi-Ardabili, who was once the head of the State Supreme Court, was dismissed from this position a short while ago by the Khamene'i-Rafsanjani team. He had not yet emerged from the numbness and confusion right after his dismissal—or did not yet feel that he had the strength to seriously confront Khamene'i and Rafsanjani, when he claimed—rather uncomfortably—that he was going to go to the Qom seminary in order to continue his work there. At that time he showed his disatisfaction with Rafsanjani's measures, albeit through negative resistance and withdrawal. His sudden coming to the Friday prayers ceremonies in Tehran, which were being staged along with the ceremonies called Holy Defense Week, is important from the standpoint that it took place with the previous and organized announcement of Ahmad Khomeyni. Musavi-Ardabili in his Friday prayer sermons, did not embark, as he had done before, on empty complaints,

but in a serious and threatening tone he disclosed his opposition to the Khamene'i-Rafsanjani team's policies. When he said: May there not be, at any point, a group thinking that it is being gradually pushed aside, since this being pushed aside will slowly turn into disgruntlement and then, God forbid, will turn gradually to them becoming counterrevolutionaries—this is in reality an address directed at the ruling camp, and a pointer to a kind of organized confrontation. It was not without reason that the regime's radio, too, in its Friday noon news program [1030 GMT], heavily censored Musavi-Ardabili's remarks.

Musavi-Ardabili, in another section of his remarks, said: An insidious disease is gradually spreading in our society. If one day, an official makes a remark and another contradicts him, he is immediately labelled a counterrevolutionary, as against the velayat-e faqih, and as an opponent of that particular official. No. It is the person who has made such accusations who is the anti-Islamic one.

These terms and inferences show well that the coercive and repressive ruling camp is not leaving even the necks of the pawns within the ruling establishment alone. And it is exactly for this reason that Musavi-Ardabili is talking about the necessity for freedom of criticism and observation of the rights of the people.

Even though we cannot predict what the future of this opposing outburst by the former head of the State Supreme Court will be, one thing is certain, and that is that his remarks coming from the pulpit of the Friday prayer sermons—that is the official propaganda (?platform) of the regime—display a new struggle in the open [words indistinct] of rival factions. Particularly since from the time that real power was divided between Rafsanjani and Khamene'i there has been no precedent for the emergence of this level of differences. Now, it must be seen where this continuing saber-rattling will lead to. Can a fate such as that which befell Montazeri befall Musavi-Ardabili or not? The future will supply an answer to these kinds of questions.

Majlis Speaker Appoints Committee Head

LD2309193989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] In decrees issued separately, Majlis Speaker Karrubi appointed Jahangir Sani and Fa'd Karimi as the head and a member, respectively, of the committee for examining government-approved measures and checking their compatibility with the country's general laws and regulations [hey'at-e barresi va tatbiq-e mosavabat-e dolat be qavanin va moqararat-e 'omumi-ye keshvar].

Karrubi Meets With Grand Ayatollahs

LD2109203489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Islamic consultative Assembly Speaker Karrubi met with Grand Ayatollahs Golpayegani, Araki, and Mar'ashi Najafi this morning. The report notes that the grand ayatollahs graciously gave the necessary guidelines regarding various issues concerning the country, including the issues pertaining to Qom township.

UN Ambassador Briefs Majlis Speaker

LD2009212589 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 20 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—New Iranian ambassador to the United nations Kamal Kharrazi here today briefed Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi on the future plans of the Islamic Republic mission at the U.N.

Iran's permanent representative at the UN Kamal Kharrazi is to leave for New York later this week.

Elections, Expectations for New Regime Viewed

NC1909115989 Tehran PASDAR-E ESLAM in Persian August-September 89 pp 44-47

[Commentary: "The People's Vast Presence in the Elections and the Path Ahead"]

[Excerpts] The fifth presidential elections and the referendum on the Constitutional amendments which took place on Friday, 28 July, was the most important incident—from both the domestic and foreign aspects—after the death of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, and the selection of Ayatollah Khamene'i as the new leader. [passage omitted]

After the victory of the Islamic revolution, the country's executive affairs were placed in the hands of Mehdi Bazargan and his cabinet, most of them elements of the "Liberation Movement" and the National Front. The non-revolutionary approach that ruled this cabinet was obvious in the very first days after the revolution's victory and when the interim government's policies and programs were announced. The line that the interim government, or better said, the "Liberation Movement," adopted was what the great Satan wanted in order to harness the Islamic revolution or to limit it to a fight against the Shah and not the United States; to prevent the export of the revolution; to continue the policies of the shah's corrupt regime in the political, cultural, economic, military, and administrative fields; and to oppose institutions that had risen from the revolution. In short, the intention was to place domestic problems before the Islamic Republic with the ultimate intention of toppling it. [passage omitted]

Although such groups have no place in our society, people with similar approaches and views are not limited only to the "Liberation Movement" and the National Front. A knowledge of the views of such groups can make us more alert in preventing the return of such ideas and help us keep people with these views out of any positions, even if they are not key positions, because such

people do not believe in the dignity of Islam as a rule but in ruling the country on the basis of Western patterns. With the adoption of "moderate" policies, the interim government intended to gain the support of the United States. [passage omitted]

Now that the president has introduced his new cabinet to the Majlis, various policies and lines are being propounded both inside the country and abroad as the "programs" of the new government. Each one of these lines has its own special characteristics. Foreign radios and the West's propaganda machinery have specified that the lines that they desire are: "limiting the Islamic revolution to inside the borders of Iran, improving Iran's economic situation through loans, giving the private sector unconditional freedom of action, establishing links with the West in order to emerge from isolation, the elimination of revolutionary forces (described by foreign radios as "hard-liners" or "fundamentalists"), and placing affairs in the hands of technocrats and people educated in Western universities or "bigots." [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, there are those in the country, too, who have joined in with such propaganda and are unknowingly trying to gain something from the post-imam era. [passage omitted]

However, now that the country's executive affairs have been placed in the capable hands of one of the imam's best students and one of the forerunners of the imam's path—Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani—the public expects him and his new cabinet to continue the imam's principles so that the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, too, will continue. The promise that this line will be continued was made by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani during his inauguration on 3 August 1989 when he stated:

"...I am confident that the people's vote for the president is a vote for the continuation of the path of the revolution and of the imam, and contrary to the propaganda by world arrogance, our nation will not accept anything but this path, which is the path of Islam and of the Koran..."

It is hoped that our dear president and the new government will be successful in implementing the late imam's ideals and that they will solve the problems of the needy and the deprived on the basis of the dear imam's directives.

Commentary on Duties Facing New Government

NC1509125589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Sep 89 p 3

[Akhundzadeh Basti commentary entitled "The Way We Do It"]

[Text] It was unique indeed. Nobody could guess or even expect that Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani would get such a swift and quick endorsement from the Parliament for all the 22 members of his cabinet. The unanimity with which the Parliament approved and voted for the 22-member cabinet of President Rafsanjani is second to none. In fact, on the whole, the political forces in Iran have proved time and again that when it comes to adoption of crucial decisions in sensitive and cricial circumstances, the Parliament stands firm and united.

Take the case of Salman Rushdie and the breaking off of relations with the U.K.; at that time, too, the Parliament acted unanimously and stood united. But, of course, one should not forget the formidable power and charismatic personality of Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani in advancing both the cases.

With the overwhelming vote of confidence that Majlis (Parliament) has given to the new Cabinet, the political forces starting from the amendment of the Constitution followed by referendum and presidential election have been completed.

There are certain issues that require immediate attention by the new political set-up of the country. The most important of all is correct representation of truth and facts about Iran to the world. During the last decade, the Islamic Republic fell a victim to the malpropaganda and vicious campaign of the world media led by zionist forces. This has to be corrected. Our mission outside the country has a great duty in informing the world public opinion about the true facts and realities about the country. There are ample opportunities and grounds to proceed forward and carry on the messages and policies in a proper way and manner.

It has been reported that the U.K. Government have decided to release the Iranian prisoner Kurosh Fuladi in a few days time. He has been in jail there since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. This young and courageous man was the victim of a plot. He suffered a lot in many jails but never begged freedom. His resistance and freedom is a welcomed event. There are many cases similar to Kurosh Fuladi which could not be projected and defended properly in brief.

The second important task ahead on our part is to act. We have got to do it now. The nation is with us; Muslims outside the country all expect us to act and consolidate the achievements of the Islamic Revolution. We should not miss any opportunity. We have got to do it in our own way.

Over 1 Tonne of Drugs, 400 Addicts Seized

LD2009204489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 20 Sep 89

[Text] During the third stage of the Val-Adiyat [anti-narcotics campaign] project, guards of the Islamic Revolution court of Shahr-e Rey have discovered and siezed 1 tonne of narcotics in the past 48 hours. The commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee of Shahr-e Rey announced this in an interview with our correspondent and added: The recent activities were carried out in

two stages: In the first stage 1,040 kgms, and in the second stage 80 kgms were discovered in five networks of narcotics distributors. During these activities, one of the smugglers was shot and wounded.

The commander announced that in the Shahr-e Rey region, nearly 400 drug addicts have been arrested and handed over to the rehabilitation centers and work camps. He said: The guards of Shahr-e Rey committee are making continuous efforts in total alertness to implement the Val-Adiyat project in the best possible way.

Pakistan

Iranian Detained in Karachi as Hijack Suspect

BK2609013889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1845 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Karachi, Sept 25 (AFP)—An Iranian refugee in Pakistan was detained for 24 hours in connection with a possible attempt to hijack a Saudi airliner at the Karachi airport, police sources said here Monday.

The man, identified as Ali Reza, was arrested at the airport Sunday evening and was closely interrogated by security officials who released him Monday evening, the sources said.

Police said that Mr. Ali Reza, whose age was not given, was found to be a refugee who had come to Karachi from Iran last February. They said he was living in a slum behind the airport and had been under security surveillance for the past few weeks.

The sources said he was registered as a refugee with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Karachi and was planning to migrate to the United States after completing an English language course at a local institute.

Police said his arrest Sunday came on the suspicion that he might attempt to hijack Saudi Airline Flight SV-353 from Karachi to Jeddah departing Monday at 0830 (0330 GMT).

According to local press reports, security agencies here had been alerted about a possible Iranian "terrorist" retaliation to the execution last week of 16 pro-Iranian Kuwaitis in connection with bomb blasts in July at the holy city of Mecca during the hajj pilgrimage.

Delegates Head to PRC To Celebrate Anniversary

BK2509094289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0900 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] An eight-member parliamentary delegation led by the National Assembly speaker, Malik Mairaj Khalid, has gone to Beijing to represent Pakistan at the 40th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The delegation will meet with the Chinese President, Yang Shangkun, and the chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Wan Li. They will discuss matters of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Commends Bush's UN Address

BK2609030289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The U.S. President, Mr George Bush, has urged the United Nations to intensify its ongoing efforts to resolve regional disputes. He reaffirmed his administration's support for the establishment of peace in these regions. Without mentioning any particular regional dispute, such as Afghanistan or the Middle East, Mr Bush stressed that the United Nations is a conciliatory body and that disputing parties should turn to it for peaceful solutions to their problems. [passage omitted on Bush remarks on Third World debt, drug trafficking and terrorism, democratic reforms in Poland, Hungary and USSR, and recent U.S.-Soviet foreign ministers talks]

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has commended the speech by Mr Bush, saying that the speech has given utmost priority to independence, and independence does not mean political independence alone, but economic independence as well.

Prime Minister's Adviser on India, Afghanistan

BK2609104289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Iqbal Akhund, the prime minister's adviser on national security and foreign affairs, has said that there is no threat to the country's defense. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said the government and the people of Pakistan will not allow anyone to cast an evil eye on the sacred soil of Pakistan.

The prime minister's adviser described as incorrect the impression that Pakistan has accorded any concession to India to construct the Wular Barrage in occupied Kashmir. He said a preliminary meeting of officials from India and Pakistan has already been held to discuss the issue and another meeting on the subject would be held soon.

Iqbal Akhund denied that the [India-Pakistan] negotiations on Siachen have bogged down.

About Afghanistan, the prime minister's adviser said that there has been no change in Pakistan's stand and that Islamabad is trying to bring all groups of the mujahidin to a single platform to ensure the success of their holy war.

Nusrat Bhutto Meets Soviet Envoy Yakunin

BK2309160689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Senior Federal Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto has said that the Afghanistan issue is the only issue which, to

some extent, is obstructing the development of friendly relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union. She expressed the hope that restoration of the democratic system and the obvious and positive change in the Soviet attitude on world issues will facilitate a solution to the Afghan issue, thereby opening a new chapter of cordial relationships between Pakistan and the USSR.

Begum Nusrat Bhutto was talking to Soviet Ambassador Viktor Yakunin, who called on her in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on various aspects of bilateral relations. The senior federal minister stressed that Pakistan wants an early solution of the Afghan issue and the creation of a situation conducive to the return of Afghan refugees to their homes. Pakistan is very sincerely working to promote peace in the region, she added.

The Soviet ambassador said that his country considers the establishment of a democratic government and the restoration of democratic institutions in Pakistan as a positive step that will greatly help in the development of relations between the two countries. He said he believes that the relations between Pakistan and the USSR are gradually expanding and there are very bright prospects of further developing these relations.

Referring to the Afghanistan issue, the Soviet ambassador said that signing of the Geneva accord and exchange of views [words indistinct] at international gatherings show that Pakistan is [word indistinct] and the two want a political settlement of the issue.

President Expects Political Situation To Normalize

BK2409050589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has expressed confidence that the political situation in the country would soon be normalized and that confrontation will give way to harmony. He was talking to newsmen at the reception hosted by Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan (Yusuf al-Matabakhani) last night to celebrate the national day of Saudi Arabia.

The president said that the current political tension between the government and the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad or Islamic Democratic Alliance] opposition will subside in due course and the business of the country will proceed normally. He, however, said that the people should put pressure on political leaders in this connection. He was certain that the people would soon see that the political tension will de-escalate and the situation will improve.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was present on the occasion. Both the president and the prime minister asked the ambassador to convey their heartfelt felicitations to King Fahd on the auspicious occasion of the national day of Saudi Arabia.

Opposition Leader Urges Government To Go Nuclear

BK2109103989 Karachi DAWN in English 11 Sep 89 p 5

[Text] Lahore, Sept 10—Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, president, JUP [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan], advised the government on Sunday [10 September] to go ahead with its nuclear programme to develop nuclear weapons for bolstering its defence irrespective of hostile reaction by India or any other country.

"If there can be an Israeli bomb, an Indian bomb or a South African bomb than there was no harm in developing an Islamic bomb", he said while addressing the Lahore High Court Bar.

Central JUP leaders, including Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, Gen (Retd) K.M. Azhar, Maj Gen (Retd) Muhammad Husain Ansari and Pri Ijaz Hashmi were also present.

The JUP president said that Pakistan should not adopt an apologetic attitude and instead continue its nuclear programme at all costs including foreign assistance, he emphasised.

India, he said, would never accept Pakistan as a reality and thus there could be no compromise with it.

Pakistan should employ all available means to regain Siachen glacier and the occupied Jammu and Kashmir from Indian control, he added.

He suggested deployment of peacekeeping force in Afghanistan comprising troops from various Muslim countries.

He also called upon the government to take "practical steps" in the light of the Geneva accord to restore peace in that country.

Expressing concern on the prevailing situation in Sind, he said that it appeared that the Sind Government had become "hostage" in the hands of terrorists.

In order to normalise the situation, he said the government should immediately seal the Rajasthan border to check the influx of what he called Indian terrorists in Sind.

The government should also fix a deadline for deposit of all illegal arms after which the government, with the help of the Armed Forces, should start a campaign to recover all such arms by imposing night curfew in the whole of the province, he added.

It was not a novel idea but was practised even by a civilised country like the United States, he said.

Without naming the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], the JUP leader said that an ethnic and terrorist organisation's strength is based on illegal arms and peace would not be possible unless it was deprived of all such arms.

In his opinion there was no need for an all-party conference, as proposed by Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan [of Pakistan Democratic Party], after the suggestions given by him.

Maulanan Noorani castigated the elements who in his opinion were striving hard for re-imposition of martial law.

"Now that a democratic government was in power and constitutional and democratic institutions were in existence martial law was not the solution to any problem," he added.

As for confrontation between the centre and provinces, the JUP leader said that it was not surprising for him because long periods of martial law always created such problems.

It was not confined to Pakistan only and many other countries faced similar situations after long spans of martial law, he said.

According to him, the provincial autonomy provided in the 1973 Constitution was far greater than the one given in the Indian Constitution. But if the government still faced any problem in this regard then it could make amendment in the Constitution.

He opposed mid-term polls.